

Herald Tribune

INTERNATIONAL

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

The World's Daily Newspaper

**

London, Tuesday, March 14, 1995

No. 34,848

U.S. Central Bankers Cool to Higher Rates

Steady Economy and Low Inflation Sideline Concerns Over Dollar's Fall

By Keith Bradsher
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Senior Federal Reserve officials are expressing little enthusiasm for raising interest rates further, despite recent sharp declines in the dollar and in the unemployment rate, which have created some pressure for another increase.

Several of the Federal Reserve Board's seven governors said in interviews they thought the American economy was slowing to a point of steady, sustainable growth with moderate inflation.

At the same time, they discounted warnings of some economists that the central

bank's seven interest rate increases over the last 13 months might brake growth so drastically that the economy would enter a recession.

"There are signs of a slowing down, but it's a slowing down in the rate of growth — it's not the kind of slowing down that says you're in a nosedive," said John P. LaWare, one of the Federal Reserve governors.

The question of interest rate increases was reopened last week when the Federal Reserve chairman, Alan Greenspan, hinted that he might consider raising rates if the dollar's fall threatened to increase inflation.

Any such increase would be a departure

from the Federal Reserve's traditional practice of paying little heed to currency values in deciding on interest rates.

Many analysts took the comment at the time as a sign that the central bank suddenly found itself faced by new and conflicting international demands just when it thought it had adequately moderated economic growth by pushing rates higher.

The governors interviewed declined to discuss the dollar in specific terms.

Mr. LaWare did say that he doubted a low dollar would increase exports so much that overextended factories would raise prices, feeding inflation.

The tenor of the comments of the four governors about the domestic economy supported the view that Mr. Greenspan's remarks were not a threat to raise rates soon, but an effort to halt the dollar's slide by nudging currency traders to stop selling dollars and start investing in the United States in hopes of higher returns here.

Mr. Greenspan's comments represented a subtle shift in tone from earlier congressional testimony. Mr. LaWare and the other governors interviewed all echoed the gist of that testimony: Enough drag has already been put on the economy to slow it from last year's overheated growth, and there is no sign that the Federal Reserve applied the brakes too heavily.

The problem with this stance is that it has unnerved currency traders, who sent the dollar plunging to record lows against the German mark and Japanese yen early last week.

Mr. LaWare, however, defended Mr.

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KILLINGS AND A CURFEW IN ISTANBUL — Protesters blocking two armored crowd-control vehicles during fighting Monday between the police and members of the Alawite community angry about a shooting attack. Page 2

Blair Persuades British Labor Party Chiefs to Bury a Socialist Tenet

By John Darnton
New York Times Service

market pragmatism — is intended to reposition Britain's opposition in the political mainstream.

The goal is simple: to knock John Major's tooting. Conservatives, in power since Margaret Thatcher's victory in 1979, out of the box. An election must be held by 1997 at the latest and could well come sooner if Mr. Major loses control of Parliament.

Monday's vote was a personal triumph for Mr. Blair. The 41-year-old leader, who came to power as party "modernizer" emphasizing such middle-class issues as

crime, staked a good deal of political capital on the struggle to rewrite Clause Four, as it is called.

He announced his intention to do so at a party conference in October, where he lost an initial vote on the issue. There followed a six-month campaign in which he hammered home the need for the change before party groups throughout the country and encountered a modicum of resistance from some union leaders and old-style party leftists.

The victory was all the sweeter because it was so public, which was perhaps part of

the strategy. And the Conservatives themselves unwittingly played into it by predicting at various points that Mr. Blair might well lose — something that would prop up the traditional Tory charges that Labor is still in the grip of trade union kingpins and radical socialists.

Now the newspaper headlines are bound to deepen Labor's inroads in the middle class, where all sides agree the election will be decided, and even among possible Conservative and Liberal Democratic defectors attracted to the slogan of "New Labor."

Mr. Blair and his deputy, John Prescott, worked on the final wording of a substitute Clause Four at Mr. Blair's house in London over the weekend. The party's national executive committee discussed it for three hours Monday afternoon and then voted to accept it, 21 to 3, with 5 abstentions.

The decision is not final, as a special party conference set for April 29 must give its approval. But no one expects the con-

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EU Cuts Off Contacts With Canada Over Boat Seizure

Further Talks Ruled Out Unless Ottawa Releases Spanish Fishing Vessel

By Tom Buerkle
International Herald Tribune

BRUSSELS — The European Union broke off formal contacts with Canada on Monday to protest the seizure of a Spanish fishing vessel off Newfoundland, but it decided against any immediate trade retaliation.

There was no sign of an early end to the impasse, however, because the Union ruled out negotiations until the ship was released. Ottawa insisted that the fate of the ship was in the hands of Canada's judiciary.

"There's no question of negotiations on this affair if the captain and the ship are not first freed," said Niklaus van der Pas, spokesman for the European Commission, the EU executive agency.

In Madrid, Foreign Minister Javier Solana Madariaga said Spain had begun steps to lodge a formal complaint against Canada at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, and had a second ship ready to steam to the contested waters.

A court hearing was set for Tuesday in St. John's, Newfoundland, where the vessel *Estai* was being held and the ship's captain, Enrique Davila Gonzales, was released on bail Sunday on charges that included one count of illegal fishing.

The long-running EU-Canada fishing dispute flared on Thursday when Canada seized the *Estai* and its 24-member crew in waters about 28 miles beyond Canada's 200-mile (320-kilometer) boundary.

Europe contends that the seizure was a blatant violation of international law, while Canada said it was acting to conserve dwindling stocks of Greenland halibut, or turbot, around the Grand Banks off Newfoundland.

The incident has underscored the growing risk of trade disputes between longtime allies, as well as the difficulty of getting major nations to respond collectively to the rapid depletion of the world's fish stocks.

While Canada and the European Union both acknowledge the shrinking of stocks that has already forced a moratorium on

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AGENDA



HAIR REPAIR — President Jiang Zemin of China finding time to comb at a session of the Eighth National People's Congress in Beijing on Monday.

Baltic Port Goes Hunting — for a Mayor

By Stephen Kinzer
New York Times Service

ROSTOCK, Germany — An unusual want ad appeared in several German newspapers recently.

"In the Hanseatic city of Rostock, the largest city in the state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, with 237,000 inhabitants, the post of mayor is to be filled before the middle of 1995," the ad announced. "The ideal candidate would be decisive and responsible, and have considerable experience in the administration of a large municipality."

Like many communities in East Germany, Rostock has been run for the last few years by a mayor who came from the West and now wants to go back home. The incomer, Dieter Schroeder, who was appointed by the City Council in 1993 after the previous mayor resigned, is 59 and says

he is not healthy enough to continue. Finding a replacement has not proven easy.

"We have serious work to do up here, and we need a real professional," said Manfred Sievert, director of the Chamber of Commerce. "I wouldn't say there's no one in Rostock who can do the job, but if we can find a Westerner who has the right background and who is also committed to this region, that would be ideal."

The new mayor will be chosen by a committee of leaders of the four parties represented on the City Council and the chief of the city's personnel department, and will be paid \$75,000 to \$91,000.

Rostock, like most of Eastern Germany, was in deep economic trouble when Germany was reunified in 1990. Most of its labor force was employed at the giant shipyards that supplied vessels for the Soviet Union and other Communist countries.

But East Germany's shipping industry, like its chemical, steel, textile, and energy industries, had become hopelessly outmoded and could not compete on the open market. Tens of thousands of laborers here lost their jobs, and more than 15,000 residents have left.

In 1992, the city was convulsed by several days of anti-foreigner rioting. Hundreds of residents stood by and cheered as East Germans firebombed buildings where Gypsies and Vietnamese were living.

Extensive financial aid from the federal government, totaling about \$100 billion a year, has kept the former East Germany from collapse, and perhaps prevented a widespread social explosion.

Now, however, many Westerners are coming to believe that they have shelled out enough money in "solidarity taxes" for

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Republicans Take Aim at Anti-Missile Pact

By Dana Priest and Thomas W. Lippman
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Congressional Republicans are using a stalemate in arcane negotiations with Russia on how to interpret the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty to build political support for challenging the historic arms control accord.

For more than 20 years the ABM Treaty has been considered the most important diplomatic tool in deterring nuclear war between the superpowers. It prohibits the United States and Russia from developing a defense of their homelands against nuclear attack under the theory that neither side would then start a nuclear war knowing it

could be destroyed by retaliatory strikes.

But a growing number of Republicans, including many in the Senate where treaties must be ratified, believe that with the breakup of the Soviet Union and the new threat of missile attacks from rogue nations such as Iraq, the treaty has lost much of its usefulness.

Republicans are trying to use the negotiations — which deal with applying the treaty to new short-range missile technology — to show that President Bill Clinton is making concessions to the Russians that will prohibit the deployment of missile defenses that are crucial to national security.

Conservative Republicans, having suffered one defeat when the House stripped

from its defense bill a provision that favored a national anti-missile system, have opened a new campaign to win congressional support for developing defenses against nuclear missile attacks.

Republicans want to press ahead with the development of highly sophisticated defenses against short-range missiles that they believe could be launched against the United States from boats or other platforms. Depending upon the technology, these defenses could violate the ABM Treaty.

The disagreement between the Republicans and the Clinton administration has led to a testy exchange of letters. Mr.

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New Horrors From Argentina's Dirty War

By Calvin Sims
New York Times Service

BUENOS AIRES — Many of the victims were so weak from torture and detention that they had to be helped aboard the plane. Once in flight, they were injected with a sedative by an Argentine Navy doctor before two officers stripped them and shoved them to their deaths.

Now, one of those officers has acknowledged that he pushed 30 prisoners out of planes flying over the Atlantic Ocean dur-

ing the military government's violent crackdown on dissent in the 1970s.

The former officer, Adolfo Francisco Scilingo, 48, a retired navy commander, became the first military man in Argentina to provide details of how the military dictatorship then in power disposed of hundreds of kidnapping and torture victims of what was known as the dirty war by dumping them, unconscious but alive, into the ocean from planes.

In his account, which was published this month in the Argentine newspaper *Página 12*, Mr. Scilingo said that he took part in two of the "death flights" in 1977 and that

most other officers at the Navy School of Mechanics in Buenos Aires, where he served, also participated in such flights. He estimated that the navy conducted the flights every Wednesday for two years, 1977 and 1978, and that 1,500 to 2,000 people were killed.

"I am responsible for killing 30 people with my own hands," Mr. Scilingo said in an interview after his account was published.

"But I would be a hypocrite if I said that I am repentant for what I did. I don't

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Diplomatic Fun, Pretoria-Style: Not All Its Missions Are Equal

Some Economize, a Lot, on Cocktail Expenses

Reuters

CAPE TOWN — Anyone looking for a good time at South African government expense should steer clear of Pretoria's diplomatic missions in Addis Ababa and Lagos and head instead for Paris, London or Tokyo.

The South African mission in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, spent just 72 rand (\$20) of its 11.7 million rand (\$3.3 million) budget for fiscal 1994-95 on entertaining. Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo disclosed in response to a parliamentary question on Monday.

The mission in Lagos, the Nigerian

capital, was even less generous, with an entertainment bill of 60 rand, but that came out of a much smaller total budget of 360,000 rand for the year.

The pickings were better in London, where diplomats spent 393,636 rand out of a 30 million rand budget on entertaining.

Paris spent 480,500 rand on entertaining Tokyo 204,593 rand and Washington laid out 207,723 rand.

Overall, 7.2 million rand out of the total budget of 648 million rand for South African missions abroad was spent on entertaining.

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Zurich's Drug Cleanup

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Newstand Prices

Bahrain	0.800	Din. Mala	25 c.
Cyprus	C. \$1.00	Nigeria	110.00 Naira
Denmark	14.00 Dkr.	Oman	1,000 Rials
Finland	11 F.M.	Qatar	6,000 Rials
Germany	5.085	Rep. Ireland	1,100 R.
Great Britain	£. 0.500	Saudi Arabia	9.00 R.
Egypt	£. 0.500	S. Africa	R10 + VAT
Jordan	JD. 1.00	U.A.E.	8.50 Dirh.
Kuwait	K. 5M. 150	U.S. M.	\$1.10
Kenya	K. 5M. 150	U.S. M.	\$1.10
Kuwait	K. 5M. 150	Zimbabwe	2M. 52.00

An Underclass of Addicts/Ending Three Years of Fears

Zurich Imposes Order Where Drugs Once Ruled

By Alan Cowell
New York Times Service

ZURICH — By long tradition, this lakeside city of banks and big money flourished as an emblem of the Swiss order that made trains and watches and people all run on time.

Yet for the second time in three years, Zurich's sense of discretion and decorum has been upset by an underclass of drug addicts and dealers who transformed one of Europe's wealthiest financial centers into an open market for hard drugs.

The unraveling first began in February 1992, when the city elders sent squads of police officers to close down the central Platzspitz public park, where thousands of addicts and dealers had congregated to transact their business for at least two years.

The action, however, merely moved the market a short distance up the road, to a disused rail station called Letten, where the drug market thrived on Europe's most liberal drug laws, on the alienation of the young and on the very affluence that makes the city so beloved of its bankers.

Disturbed by violence that culminated in the killings of four dealers in a turf war last summer, the authorities cracked down again last month, after having given up on hopes that a policy of tolerance would lead to self-regulation and containment.

At midnight on Feb. 14, they closed down the Letten narcotics market with razor wire and steel fencing. The addicts melted quietly away, the last two injecting heroin into their necks for the benefit of press photographers.

"It was as if we had been set free," said Doris May, whose florist store looks out on nearby Limmatplatz, where the dealers once roamed so freely and with such perceived menace that she used to call the police to escort her to her car at day's end. "It had been three years of fear and filth, and last year was the worst."

For the city authorities, who are still reluctant to punish drug abuse itself, they no longer want to see it on the streets and hope that the latest action will be a turning point for Zurich as it comes into line with other Swiss cities that have taken a harder stance on public drug abuse.

"What counts for me is that what you don't see is O.K.," said Monika Stocker, who as director of Zurich's Social Affairs Department is in charge of drug policy and oversaw the latest measures. "People have to learn that they can't shoot up on the street anymore."

LIKE the Platzspitz before it, Letten offered an unrestricted haven for dealers selling heroin. Addicts injected it so openly that other Swiss came at weekends to watch, parking their cars not far from the discreet financial houses and plush hotels that are Zurich's pride.

At its busiest in the summer months, the drug market — in a middle-class area of apartments, stores and schools — attracted 1,500 people a day.

The police stood by, but took no punitive action against dealers or addicts, despite federal Swiss laws prohibiting the sale or use of narcotics.



A drug user sitting behind the barbed wire at the former Letten rail station before it was shut down by the Zurich police.

"It was like an Oriental bazaar," said the principal of a nearby school for textile apprentices. "You heard shots sometimes. They were all over the sidewalk. Shops went out of business. Restaurants were empty. People moved away. The dirt and pollution were incredible. The whole district died off."

In the effort to prevent the spread of AIDS, the authorities readily provided new clean syringes in exchange for used ones, as they did at many shelters for addicts in the city.

For those willing to spend the money, a pack of two syringes and two condoms could be obtained for about \$2 from vending machines.

But tolerance did not seem to work in the city of more than 340,000 people.

"We couldn't deal with them," said Giorgio Prestele, a city spokesman on drug policy. "The police couldn't deal with them. They couldn't be given proper medical care."

Before the tougher measures were undertaken, Mr. Prestele said, the authorities had identified more than 150 as hard-core abusers who were generally over the age of 30, infected with HIV, and eligible for admission to the treatment centers. A second group of about 600 were viewed as steady drug abusers but not completely alienated from society.

"The biggest group of around 3,000 were people who came to Zurich to buy drugs and then left," Mr. Prestele said.

BASED on these figures, only about one-fifth of the addicts came from Zurich, while the rest came mainly from among the 30,000 addicts elsewhere in Switzerland.

"Zurich is just not in a position to look after all of Switzerland's addicts," he said.

This time, Mr. Prestele said, the authorities are hoping that the anti-drug measures will be more enduring than they were in 1992, in part because of a broader acknowledgment among the Swiss that they have a problem with drugs.

New municipal regulations allow the police to send Swiss addicts from outside Zurich to newly established therapy and counseling centers in their own home towns.

Federal laws effective Feb. 1 increased the punitive threat against the drug dealers, most of whom are foreigners, by authorizing the detention of illegal residents for as long as nine months without trial.

Since the Feb. 14 crackdown, the authorities have detained 200 dealers — mainly citizens of Kosovo Province in Yugoslavia and Arabic-speaking North Africans and Lebanese — in 200 new prison cells. About 100 addicts have been sent home.

Underlying the crackdown is a sense of generational change and confusion in Zurich, whose monied elite tends toward conservatism but whose governing coalition of Social

ists and Greens has shied from harsh action for fear of staining its liberal credentials on drugs.

"You can't just go on saying, 'Here's little Switzerland,'" said Martin Huber, a reporter who covers drug affairs for the *Tages-Anzeiger* newspaper. "It's big city life now and that means things like prostitution and drugs."

The immediate impact of the new measures has been to disperse the addicts — some to treatment and counseling centers, where methadone is administered under medical supervision to help addicts withdraw from heroin.

OTHERS have gone to places like the red light district of Langstrasse, where small clusters of people continue to buy and sell drugs. Dealers, the police say, now operate from apartments, subways and railroad stations.

"There's a lot more stress now," said a 19-year-old man looking for a dealer on Langstrasse. "Unless you have a dealer's telephone number to get the stuff in an apartment, the price on the street is twice as high. And it's hard to find a place to shoot up without the police coming after you."

For many other people here, though, the latest moves have attacked the symptoms, not the cause.

"As long as the market stays in Zurich," said Mr. Huber, "the users will always come back."

Rogue Explosions Shake Warsaw as Gangs Vie for Power

By Christine Spolar
Washington Post Service

WARSAW — It's a special curse in a city once destroyed by wartime bombs: a wave of rogue bomb blasts and an unprecedented number of anonymous threats.

Newspapers have begun a campaign demanding better police response to the deadly bomb attacks — 10 people have been killed and 36 wounded in two years — and have even gone so far as to prove how easy it is for anyone to buy a bomb. The tabloid *Super Express* bought \$2,000 worth of explosives at Warsaw's airport last month from people who claimed to be anti-terrorist officers.

Explosions across Poland increased at such a rate last year — 83 blasts compared to 41 in 1993 — that the newly named prime minister, Józef Oleksy, last week deemed it a crisis and formed a special task force, which he will head, to target organized crime.

Police find the violence to two gangs engaged in a turf battle over control of the narcotics, prostitution, extortion and auto theft rackets in Poland.

The paper explained in print: "Explosives are easily available and it is high time that the police took decisive measures against this dangerous situation."

The blasts have come as prosecutors who are pursuing organized crime cases in court have suffered personal and public attacks. Last week, a bomb was found in one prosecutor's car and another prosecutor, walking from court, was doused with acid.

Compounding fears about increases in such crimes is the fact that the police departments through Poland are underfunded, undertrained and lack such basic equipment as gas, desks and chairs. In Warsaw, for example, the police department has 2,000 vacancies.

Most of the bombs recovered by police — seven devices have been defused since January — are home-made. Fabricated with military or mining chemicals, they are unstable, raising the stakes for officers who defuse or remove them.

TRAVEL UPDATE

A Push for Airport Quarantine Areas

NEW DELHI (Reuters) — The head of the World Health Organization said Monday that he had asked international aviation authorities to make sure airports have quarantine areas to prevent the spread of diseases like plague.

The director general of WHO, Hiroshi Nakajima, said he had asked the International Civil Aviation Organization to help enforce global regulations requiring quarantine areas at borders. Mr. Nakajima said the absence of such a safety provision in many modern airports had contributed to the international panic that erupted after pneumonic plague broke out in India last September.

A long list of countries shut off all travel and trade with India during the outbreak, despite WHO's assurances that it was easily cured with common antibiotics and that any victims could be easily spotted at airport checkpoints. The plague killed 54 people in India. There were no reported cases outside the country.

Engineers are hopeful that traffic will resume within a week on Australia's flood-damaged TransLink, the only rail link between Western Australia and the eastern two-thirds of the country. The Kalgoorlie manager of the national railway, Trevor Freeth, said Monday that it would still be several days before the level dropped sufficiently for workers to raise the 900-meter (2,950-foot) section of damaged line and strengthen stone embankments. Services could be back to normal by early next week, he said.

All Nippon Airways will terminate its partnership with Aeroflot of Russia this month and start new direct flights to Europe, a company spokesman said Monday. The company applied last week to the Japanese Transport Ministry to stop several weekly flights on the Tokyo-Moscow-Europe route operated jointly with the Russian airline, the spokesman said. All Nippon made the application after it signed a contract with Austrian Airlines to cooperate on a new direct Tokyo-Vienna service.

A strike by port workers cut sea links between mainland France and its Mediterranean island of Corsica on Monday, and nationalists set off three bombs amid mounting labor tensions. Shipping lines canceled five daily car ferries between Marseille and the Corsican ports of Bastia and Ajaccio after strikers kept the ferry *Dantic Casanova* at anchor in Ajaccio, officials said. (Reuters)

A strike at Air Inter, France's main domestic airline, cut traffic by one-third Monday, a company spokesman said. Strikers blocked off access to Paris Orly airport, forcing luggage-laden passengers to walk from nearby highway exits. Strikers also barricaded runways at Bordeaux's Mérignac airport for several hours, stranding some 1,500 passengers.

U.S. Astronaut Ready for Stay On Russian Mir

By Pam Belluck
New York Times Service

Mr. Adams said Sinn Fein would open an office in Washington on Tuesday.

Mr. Adams, who has been granted a multiple-entry visa for three months, is expected to return to the United States several times in the coming months, a spokesman said.

On Wednesday, there is to be a \$200-a-person fund-raising event at the Plaza. On Thursday, he plans to attend a St. Patrick's Day lunch for members of Washington.

Mr. McCurry also said that the United States and Britain still enjoyed "a warm and special relationship." When asked if Mr. Clinton had any second thoughts about allowing the Sinn Fein leader to attend a White House reception, he said, "No."

The significance of Sunday's funding event was more symbolic than financial, organizers said. The suggested donation was \$20.

U.S. Ignores British

The White House spokesman, Michael McCurry, on Monday dismissed British government anxiety over Mr. Clinton's open arms treatment of Mr. Adams, saying: "We are aware of their concerns." Reuters reported from Washington.

Mr. McCurry also said that the United States and Britain still enjoyed "a warm and special relationship." When asked if Mr. Clinton had any second thoughts about allowing the Sinn Fein leader to attend a White House reception, he said, "No."

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Mexico Becomes a Drug Power With Help From On High

By Tod Robberson
and Douglas Farah
Washington Post Service

profits into legitimate forms of capital that are integral to Mexico's financial health.

MEXICO CITY — Mexico, for decades a key transshipment point for cocaine entering the United States, has expanded its role over the past year as a clearinghouse for worldwide drug shipments and money laundering with the active help of business leaders and government officials, U.S. and Latin American narcotics experts say.

The Mexican narcotics organizations, which sprang up as franchises of the Colombian cocaine cartels, are now viewed by U.S. and Mexican authorities as independent entities that maintain business ties with other criminal organizations but are strong enough to operate on their own.

Experts say they have built a financial empire using the country's booming tourist industry and stock market, converting billions of dollars in drug

bankers in Mexico do not discount the possibility that the December financial crunch that led to the peso's devaluation was the result, at least in part, of a massive transfer of drug money from the country.

As in Colombia, where the Medellin and Cali cartels pioneered large-scale

high-profile series of killings — that

has characterized Colombia for years

and marks Mexico today.

The former deputy attorney general, Mario Ruiz Massieu, is under arrest in the United States as authorities investigate links between him and the Gulf of Mexico drug cartel based in north-central Tamaulipas State.

A Mexican source close to the investigation said tens of millions of dollars that Mr. Ruiz Massieu kept in several U.S. bank accounts had been traced directly to the Gulf cartel. Meanwhile, Mexican authorities say the assassination of Mr. Ruiz Massieu's brother, José Francisco, also appears to be linked to the cartel.

Investigators say they have tied the notorious Arellano Félix cartel, based in Tijuana, directly to the May 1993 shooting death of Cardinal Juan Jesús Posadas Ocampo. Now they say they are looking into the possibility of drug ties to the March 21 assassination of

the governing party presidential candidate, Luis Donaldo Colosio.

A U.S. drug official said the recent political assassinations were characteristic of muscle-flexing by major drug gangs and have coincided with a number of shoot-outs between rival Colombian-allied cartels in Mexico.

As Mexico's major gangs consolidate their control and expand their alliances with Asian and European organizations, he said, there will come a time when they challenge Colombia's Cali cocaine cartel for control of the transshipment market here. The Cali organizations control about 80 percent of the world's cocaine market.

"The Mexicans in five years just might be more powerful than the U.S.," the U.S. official said. "For now, they are partners out of necessity, but it won't stay that way for long."

Evidence of the new strength acquired by the Mexican gangs has been the recent use of specially equipped Boeing 727 jets to fly tons of cocaine

from Colombia to points in rural Mexico. Several jets were seized in Cali in January after making runs to Mexico.

Part of the reason that drug organizations have been so successful, U.S. officials say, is that they devote millions of dollars in profits for payoffs to Mexican officials.

A senior Mexican official said that as the chief anti-narcotics officer, Mario Ruiz Massieu held one of the most coveted positions in Mexican law enforcement.

"He decided which police chief go which region to 'enforce,'" the official said. "That is not a professional appointment based on merit, it is a commercial transaction."

Eduardo Valle, an anti-narcotics adviser to former Attorney General Jorge Carpizo, said: "One of the good regions, like Tamaulipas or the other border states, can sell for \$1 million or \$2 million. That is what you get from your own police, on top of what you get from the cartels."

POLITICAL NOTES

Newcomers Chafe at Senate Ropes

WASHINGTON — For many years the closest thing to the promised land for a House Republican was a seat in the Senate. Seven of them landed there after the 1994 election. Now, some of them acknowledge, they occasionally find themselves longing longingly at their old berth in the House.

Senator Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, 36, plodded his feet in the desk of his barely furnished office last week and tried to explain why.

"This body tends to bog down," said the former two-term member of the House, adding that he thought the Senate held the doctrine of stare decisis, or adhering to precedent, in higher regard than the Supreme Court. "Things don't change around here and nobody wants them to. Particularly the people who hold power."

For the freshmen class of 1994 — 11 of them in the Senate, all Republicans — there is no greater danger than the perpetuation of the status quo. They are restless with the deliberative, stately pace of the Senate, where the status quo goes by the name of tradition.

They yearn for a little of the man-the-harricades spirit of the House of Representatives, which is rolling through legislation at an extraordinary pace. More immediately, some wonder why a Republican Senate has to spend five weeks on the balanced-budget amendment, watch the Democratic minority make endless points in the debate and then after all that still lose.

Senator Olympia J. Snowe of Maine said in an interview, "We don't want to be viewed as the big black hole where everything is lost." She said that a recent Republican poll found that the public held a significantly better view of the House than it did of the Senate. (NYT)

House Bill Would Cut Foster Care

WASHINGTON — In a little-cooled part of their welfare proposals, House Republicans are moving forward with a plan to rein in federal support for foster care and adoptive services and turn existing programs over to the states.

The Republican plan, which entails a \$2.9 billion reduction in the rate of growth in federal child welfare programs, has raised alarms from some state officials and child advocacy groups. These critics worry that the reduction is coming at a time when other proposed changes in the welfare program may force more poor women to relinquish custody of their children. But the plan has won the support of a number of Republican governors, who say it will give them the flexibility they need to revamp a system already staggering under soaring caseloads.

The plan, which was approved last week by the House Ways and Means Committee, is aimed at slowing the dramatic growth in federal subsidies for foster care and adoption. The bill is scheduled to be taken up by the full House along with the other welfare measures sometime in the next few weeks.

The Republican legislation, which would make the most far-reaching revisions in federal child welfare law in 15 years, also scraps a raft of federal regulations intended to ensure that children in foster care receive adequate medical services, food, clothing and education, replacing them with a requirement that each state develop its own plan for handling foster care and adoption that would be monitored by citizen review panels. (NYT)

Quote/Unquote

Senator John H. Chafee, Republican of Rhode Island, on the frustration of Republican newcomers to the Senate who moved there from the House: "They look back to where they were, and they see these things they believed in for so long batten overnight: zing zing, zing, balanced-budget amendment, line-item veto, everything's swish, swish, swish. They can't understand why it's not happening here, and they get frustrated." (NYT)



Mark M. Davy/Agence France-Presse
The town of Pajaro, California, was under water Monday after heavy rains burst a dike.

Half of California Now Disaster Area

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SAN FRANCISCO — Rain fell again Monday in a continuing series of storms that has turned half of California into a disaster zone, inundating the state's lushes fields, closing roads and leaving at least 12 people dead and thousands homeless.

James Bailey of the state-federal Flood Operations Center in Sacramento called the storm "the most widespread" in California "in this century."

Flooding on Sunday cut off the Monterey Peninsula to Northern California and forced thousands to evacuate from the low-lying farmland. But a narrow road was opened Monday to free stranded residents.

President Bill Clinton declared half of the state a disaster area, allowing businesses and residents — some still digging out from flooding in January — to apply for federal aid.

Mr. Clinton's declaration came after Governor Pete Wilson formally requested the president to make federal aid available to individuals and local governments in 39 of California's 58 counties, including

Los Angeles, Orange, Sacramento and Santa Barbara.

The estimated \$2 billion damage bill — the latest in a series racked up by earthquakes, wildfires and mudslides — has been due mostly to crop devastation.

Artichoke and strawberry fields at the neck of the Monterey Peninsula were under water and Southern California beaches were littered with oranges and limes washed down from the orchards.

Mountains of mud from hills still barred by the raging 1993 wildfires slid toward the ocean north of Los Angeles, cutting off the coastal highway and sealing into the posh beachside homes of Malibu.

At the center of the state, a main-swollen creek washed out a bridge over the weekend on the busy Interstate 5 freeway and four cars plunged into the water.

The interstate, which links San Francisco to Los Angeles, was closed to traffic, and authorities said road damage would inconvenience commuters for some time to come. (AFP, AP, Reuters)

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT



LEBANON REQUIRES YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 425!

425. It's not just any number. It's the United Nations' Security Council Resolution 425, which, since 1978, has been calling for the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the Lebanon territories it has been occupying since March 14th of that year! For Lebanon, for the Lebanese, for the oppressed citizens living under Israeli occupation, and, most specifically, for those held prisoners in outright violation of the most basic of Human Rights, this number represents their deepest hope and anticipation for salvation.

March 14th, 1995 has been proclaimed as Solidarity Day With Occupied Southern Lebanon. It is a date on which all Lebanese will join hands to herald their outrage against Israeli injustice and against the world's passivity toward that injustice!

On March 14th, our expectation is for the world to remember its responsibility toward Lebanon - as represented through its endorsement of Resolution 425 - and to realize that the time has come to push for the unconditional implementation of its internationally acknowledged and legitimate decision.

Rally yourselves to our cause and manifest your solidarity with the people of Southern Lebanon by writing to the Lebanese embassy in your country of residence for the implementation of 425.

Funded by
The Preparatory Parliamentary Committee
for the 14th of March
The Lebanese Parliament
Nijme Square
Beirut, Lebanon.

Send to Lebanese Embassy

Yes for Solidarity Day

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Country: _____

**The New Commission:
An Agenda For Business?
— Brussels —**

MARK YOUR DIARY!

The International Herald Tribune in association with Belmont European Policy Centre is convening an important one day conference, "The New Commission: An Agenda For Business?"

The conference, which will take place at the Conrad Hotel in Brussels on June 6, will debate the new Commission's agenda and the implications for the international business community.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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Herald Tribune
THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

Sprint

Citing Deng's Health, Taiwan Braces for a Crisis

Agence France-Presse

TAIPEI — The Taiwan authorities believe China's senior leader, Deng Xiaoping, is in critical condition and they have formed a special team to deal with the crisis after his death, a government official told the legislature on Monday.

"The latest information we have is that Deng is in critical condition," said Vincent Siew, chairman of the Mainland Affairs Council, which handles Taiwan's affairs with China. "His health is deteriorating fast."

Mr. Siew said a committee had been formed to monitor events in China. But he would not say what measures Taiwan would take after Mr. Deng, 90, had died.

"There is no reason we make public

what we plan to do in a sensitive issue like this," he said.

He declined to identify the source of his information, but it was believed to have come from Taiwan's military intelligence unit and the country's National Security Council. Both devote large resources to gathering information on Mr. Deng's health.

Mr. Siew said Taiwan hoped China would remain stable after the senior leader's death. He added that the public in Taiwan must remain calm.

"Deng is highly influential on the mainland," Mr. Siew said. "The current leadership is promoted by him, and the measures we are working on to deal with the crisis after his death are in line with what he had said in the past."

His statement set off new speculation about Mr. Deng's health. Earlier in the year, diplomats and China watchers had expected that an announcement of his death was imminent.

The Chinese leader's daughter, Deng Rong, set off rumors when she told an American newspaper that her father's health was deteriorating daily.

More recent accounts of Mr. Deng's health have been reassuring. At the United Nations World Summit on Social Development in Copenhagen during the weekend, Prime Minister Li Peng of China was reported to have told President Suharto of Indonesia that Mr. Deng was improving.

Mr. Siew also made a new offer for China and Taiwan to stage reciprocal

presidential visits, but only if President Lee Teng-hui could visit Beijing as head of state.

Mr. Siew said his council would "recommend that Lee meet his mainland counterpart, Jiang Zemin, in Beijing if Jiang extended an invitation to Lee as head of state."

He said he did not rule out that a country could have two leaders, and "they can exchange visits to each other's territory."

The remarks further clarified Taiwan's policy toward China, especially on visits by heads of two states that do not recognize each other. Taiwan has been attempting to press Beijing to recognize it as a separate political entity.

350 Held In Karachi Crackdown On Violence

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

KARACHI, Pakistan — The police have arrested more than 350 people and confiscated scores of weapons in three days as part of a citywide crackdown against violence in Karachi, officials said Monday.

The minister of information and broadcasting, Khalid Ahmad Khatri, said after a cabinet meeting that more than 350 people suspected of extremist acts had been apprehended in the last few days.

More people will be arrested in coming days, he said at a news conference.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has vowed to deal with the killers in a "firm and ruthless" manner. But critics say her government has been slow in responding to the escalating violence, which has claimed about 500 lives in the last three months.

"Karachi is under attack," the Karachi Women's Peace Committee, a private group, said at the conclusion of a meeting on Sunday. "Immediate measures must be taken on a war footing to control the situation."

Thirteen people were slain on Sunday, including nine shot and killed when attackers opened fire with automatic weapons at the office of the Hizbullah faction of the ethnic Muhamarr National Movement, in western Karachi. The police suspect that a rival faction of the Muhamarr group carried out those killings.

Miss Bhutto blames the violence on rival ethnic, political, and religious groups, and asserts that India has sponsored attacks as well.

Terrorists want to scare away foreign investors, but my government will not be impressed and will crush them," Miss Bhutto said Sunday in the eastern city of Lahore.

On Monday, Mr. Khatri repeated another allegation by Miss Bhutto: that drug barons were helping to promote violence in retaliation against her government's tough policy against drug trafficking.

"They finance the cost of terrorist activity," he said.

Miss Bhutto withdrew the army from the streets of Karachi at the end of November, saying that the police were capable of maintaining order in the volatile city.

Sheikh Hasina, head of the Awami League, was expected to announce a program of action later Monday, including more strikes.

The opposition has boycotted all elections since walking out of the 330-seat Parliament last March and resigning en masse. The parties demanded immediate dissolution of the assembly and the prime minister's resignation.

Elections are not due for another year.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party rejected the demand and talks between the sides have failed.

(AP, Reuters)

Japanese Bicker Over Korea Visit

TOKYO — North Korea has invited a delegation from Japan's governing coalition to visit, but the coalition's two main parties were quarreling Monday over policy toward the Communist state.

A visit had been seen as a way to restart official negotiations between North Korea and Japan, which do not have diplomatic relations. Instead it has provoked discord between Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama's Socialists and the opposition Liberal Democrats over whether Japan owes North Korea compensation for Korean suffering since the end of World War II in 1945.

A 1990 agreement between the Liberal Democrats and the Socialists and North Korea's ruling Workers Party says Japan should compensate North Korea for the "losses inflicted upon the Korean people" in the years since the war.

The left-leaning Socialists, who have longstanding ties with North Korea, want to uphold the agreement. But Liberal Democrats say Japan should not be bound by it, since it was a party agreement, not a government-to-government accord.

Some Liberal Democrats said the invitation indicated that North Korea was no longer insisting that Japan abide by the 1990 agreement. But the Socialists' secretary-general, Wataru Kubo, said his party wanted to be certain about North Korea's position before joining the delegation.

(AP)

Russia-Japan Fishing Talks Open

MOSCOW — Russia and Japan began talks Monday over fishing rights in the waters off the disputed southern Kuril Islands off northern Japan, diplomats said.

The two countries frequently confront each other in the waters around the islands, which were seized by Soviet troops in the closing days of World War II.

Russia accuses Japan of poaching and of violating its territory, and its coast guards have shot at Japanese fishing vessels, wounding fishermen.

Moscow and Tokyo agreed to the two-day closed-door talks, the first formal negotiations on the issue, during a visit to Japan by Foreign Minister Andrei V. Kozyrev of Russia earlier this month.

(Reuters)

Karen Leader Appeals to Thailand

KANAEILAY, Burma — General Bo Mya, president of the Karen National Union, has called on Thailand to protect thousands of Karen refugees there from harassment by other members of the Karen ethnic group.

In an interview at his makeshift camp in southeast Burma, Bo Mya complained that fighters of the breakaway Democratic Karen Buddhist Organization continued to kidnap union officials under the nose of Thai authorities.

"Although Thailand has been taking very good care of the Karen refugees living in the camps, harassment is increasing," Bo Mya said.

(Reuters)

New Heart Ailment for Thai King

BANGKOK — King Bhumibol Adulyadej suffered a clogged blood vessel in the heart, but the condition has improved and he is expected to be discharged from the hospital soon, the Thai Royal Household Bureau said Monday.

King Bhumibol, 67, has a history of cardiac problems.

"It was discovered that there was a narrowing of the coronary artery," the household bureau said. "Such condition is regarded as very dangerous and capable of causing severe chest pains."

(AFP)

China Drops Food Into North Tibet

BEIJING — China is using helicopters to drop food, clothing and animal fodder to 130,000 people in northern Tibet cut off by the worst snowstorms in 50 years, the Xinhua press agency said Monday.

With the most remote areas of the Himalayan region inaccessible because of drifting snow and poor roads, Chinese authorities put three helicopters into use Sunday to drop critically needed aid, Xinhua said.

(Reuters)

VOICES From Asia

Frank Ching, features editor for the Far Eastern Economic Review, on fear in the Hong Kong news media as the 1997 handover to China approaches: "Right now there is an environment in which people are fearful of the future, fearful of the consequences of what they do and I think that China is responsible for creating that environment."

(Reuters)

Bhagirath Merchant, president of the Bombay Stock Exchange, on the loss of two of five state elections by India's governing party: "The debacle for the Congress Party will ring a lot of alarm bells in New Delhi. Now the dissidents will have the chance to rebel against the prime minister."

(Bloomberg)

Ren Jianxin, president of the Chinese Supreme People's Court, in an address at the Eighth National People's Congress: "The struggle against corruption is long-term and complicated. The mission of handling major cases, big cases, is very difficult."

(Reuters)

Opposition Occupies Seoul Legislature

Agence France-Presse

SEOUL — Opposition legislators occupied the National Assembly on Monday in an effort to prevent the government from pushing through changes in electoral laws.

The sit-in strike at the National Assembly followed police raids on Sunday to free the parliamentary speaker, Hwang Nak Joo, and the deputy speaker, Lee Han Dong, who for six days had been prevented from leaving their homes by opposition lawmakers.

A speaker is required by law to preside over the passage of any law through Parliament. There was no parliamentary session planned Monday.

Following an overnight sit-in, two splinter groups joined the opposition legislators to block off the assembly building's conference halls, foiling attempts by the governing Democratic Liberal Party to open a session.

The party has threatened to push a revised election law through Parliament unless the opposition presents a compromise proposal.

The governing party bopes to bar politi-

cal parties from participating in elections for county, ward and minor city positions in June 27 elections.

Party leaders contend that the changes are necessary to ensure clean campaigning.

But the opposition has accused the Democratic Liberals of seeking to maintain their grip on local governments and assemblies.

At a caucus on Monday, the leader of the opposition Democratic Party, Lee Ki Taek, renewed his threat to begin a nationwide anti-government campaign if the changes were pushed through Parliament.

Mr. Lee has stepped up his offensive against President Kim Young Sun, who is traveling in Europe, as part of his bid to emerge from the shadow of the former opposition leader, Kim Dae Jung.

A recent survey showed that the governing party might lose in Seoul, a nightmare scenario for the president, whose approval ratings are at their lowest.

Public support for the Democratic Liberal has dwindled mainly because of factional strife between reformists and conservatives.

Mr. Kim has put great emphasis on the

June election, which is regarded as a watershed for public confidence halfway through his five-year term.

Meanwhile, Chae Jung Ko, an opposition lawmaker who was injured on Sunday when riot policemen stormed the speakers' homes, was reported to have left a hospital in satisfactory condition.

The police action prompted two splinter opposition parties to join the Democratic Party strike, including the new conservative United Liberal Democrats.

"We will employ all available means of struggle for the ruling party pushes an amendment to the election law unilaterally through the assembly," the three opposition parties said in a joint statement.

On Monday, the opposition rejected an offer of dialogue, demanding that the governing party first apologize for using force on Sunday.

The new impasse came amid widespread dissatisfaction among conservatives who feel sidelined by the government, especially since the October nuclear deal and normalization talks between the United States and North Korea.

Indian Voters Again Toss Out Incumbent Parties

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW DELHI — For the third straight round of state elections, Indian voters have thrown out governing parties they considered corrupt and incompetent.

As counting continued Monday, the Congress (I) Party lost power in three of the four states that held elections last year, and managed to clearly hold just two of the six states that have voted in the past two months, including tiny Manipur in the northeast and Orissa in the east.

The latest election increased infighting in India's governing Congress Party. Pressure was growing from dissidents for the ouster of P. V. Narasimha Rao

as party leader, or even as prime minister.

Real fighting began Monday when Congress Party legislators got into a fistfight in New Delhi after an argument over election losses.

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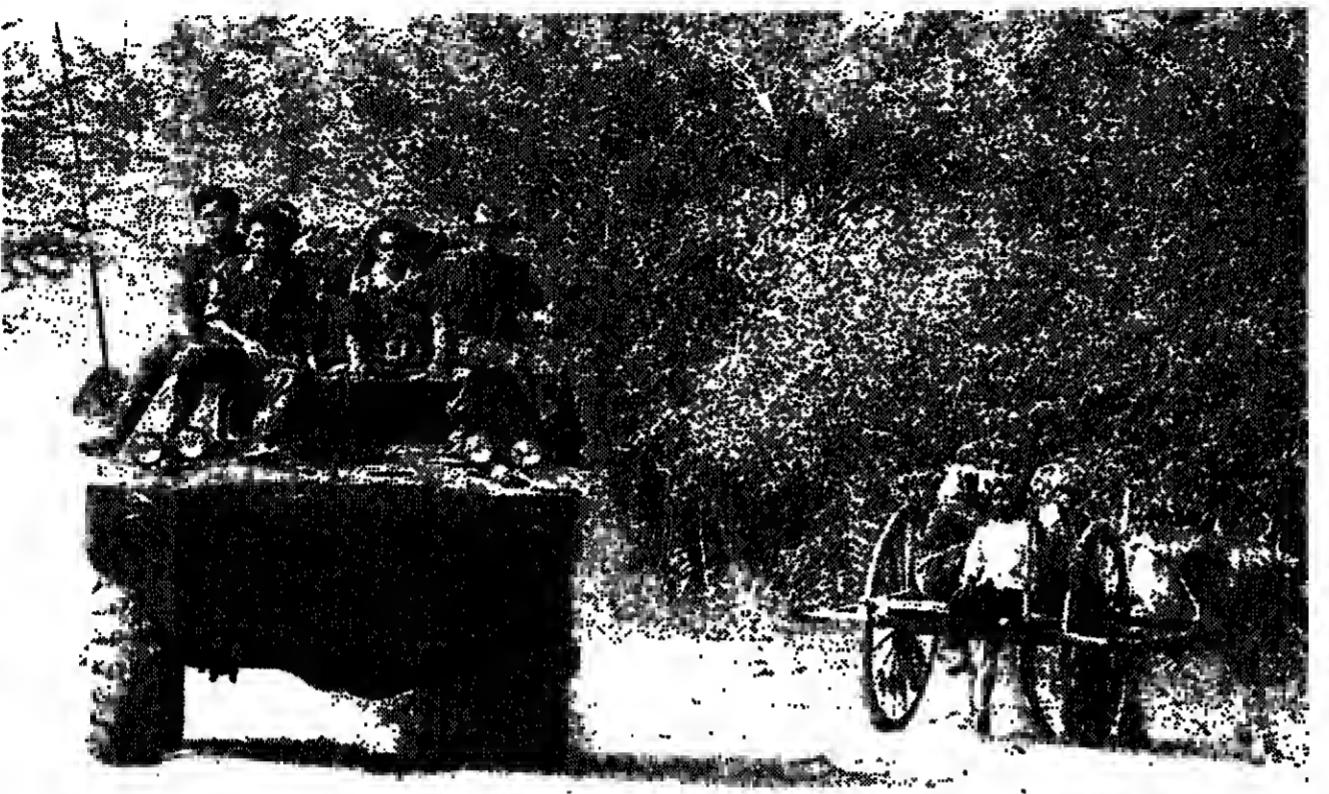
as party leader, or even as prime minister.

Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, or BJP, swept two-thirds of the Gujarat state assembly, and a coalition of the BJP and the Hindu radical group Shiv Sena maintained its lead in Maharashtra state, where Bombay is located.

With 98 percent of the 288 legislative seats decided Monday, the BJP-Shiv Sena coalition controlled 137, the Congress Party 78 and independents 45.

Chief Minister Sharad Pawar of the Congress Party resigned.

(AP, Reuters)



Cambodian troops patrolling Monday near the Thai border, an area that Khmer Rouge forces have been attacking daily.

National Strike Shuts Down Bangladesh

Agence France-Presse

DHAKA, Bangladesh — Bangladesh was again paralyzed on Monday by a national strike, but Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's party said it was preparing action against the opposition campaign aimed at forcing it to hand over power to a civilian administration and call new elections.

Protesters marched through Dhaka shouting anti-government slogans and calling for reductions in the price of rice and other consumer goods.

Political sources said the Bangladesh Nationalist Party would stage several rallies as

soon as Begum Zia returned from a United Nations conference that ended Sunday in Copenhagen.

In the prime minister's absence, thousands of policemen and paramilitary troops guarded key streets and buildings on the second day of a strike scheduled to end Tuesday.

Protesters marched through Dhaka shouting anti-government slogans and calling for reductions in the price of rice and other consumer goods.

No other major violence was reported on the second day of the strike, which is aimed at

forcing the government to let a neutral administration take the country into new elections.

The action was called by Awami League, the main opposition party; Jatiya, the party of Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammed Ershad, the former president, and the Islamic fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami party. They have been campaigning against the government for a year, saying free elections were impossible under Begum Zia.

Train, air and ferry services were disrupted, officials said.

Two train drivers were attacked near the eastern town of Bhabnia, a railroad spokesman said. Buses did not operate.

The opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party has called for immediate dissolution of the assembly and the prime minister's resignation.

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Train, air and ferry

EFLY ASIA

Over Korea Plan
China has invited a delegation
from the United States and the European
Union to visit the country to discuss
a new economic and political plan
between the two sides. The plan
is to be implemented in 1996 and
will include measures to combat
inflation and unemployment. The
plan also aims to increase trade
between the two sides and to
improve the environment.

Fishing Talks Open
Talks between the two sides have
begun to discuss a new plan
to combat inflation and
unemployment. The plan
will be implemented in 1996 and
will include measures to combat
inflation and unemployment.

Appeals to Thailand
The government has appealed to
the Thai government to take
action to combat inflation and
unemployment. The plan
will be implemented in 1996 and
will include measures to combat
inflation and unemployment.

Statement for Thai King
The government has issued a statement
to the Thai King, asking him to take
action to combat inflation and
unemployment. The plan
will be implemented in 1996 and
will include measures to combat
inflation and unemployment.

Food into North Tibet
Food has been sent to the people in
North Tibet to help them cope with
the effects of inflation and
unemployment. The plan
will be implemented in 1996 and
will include measures to combat
inflation and unemployment.

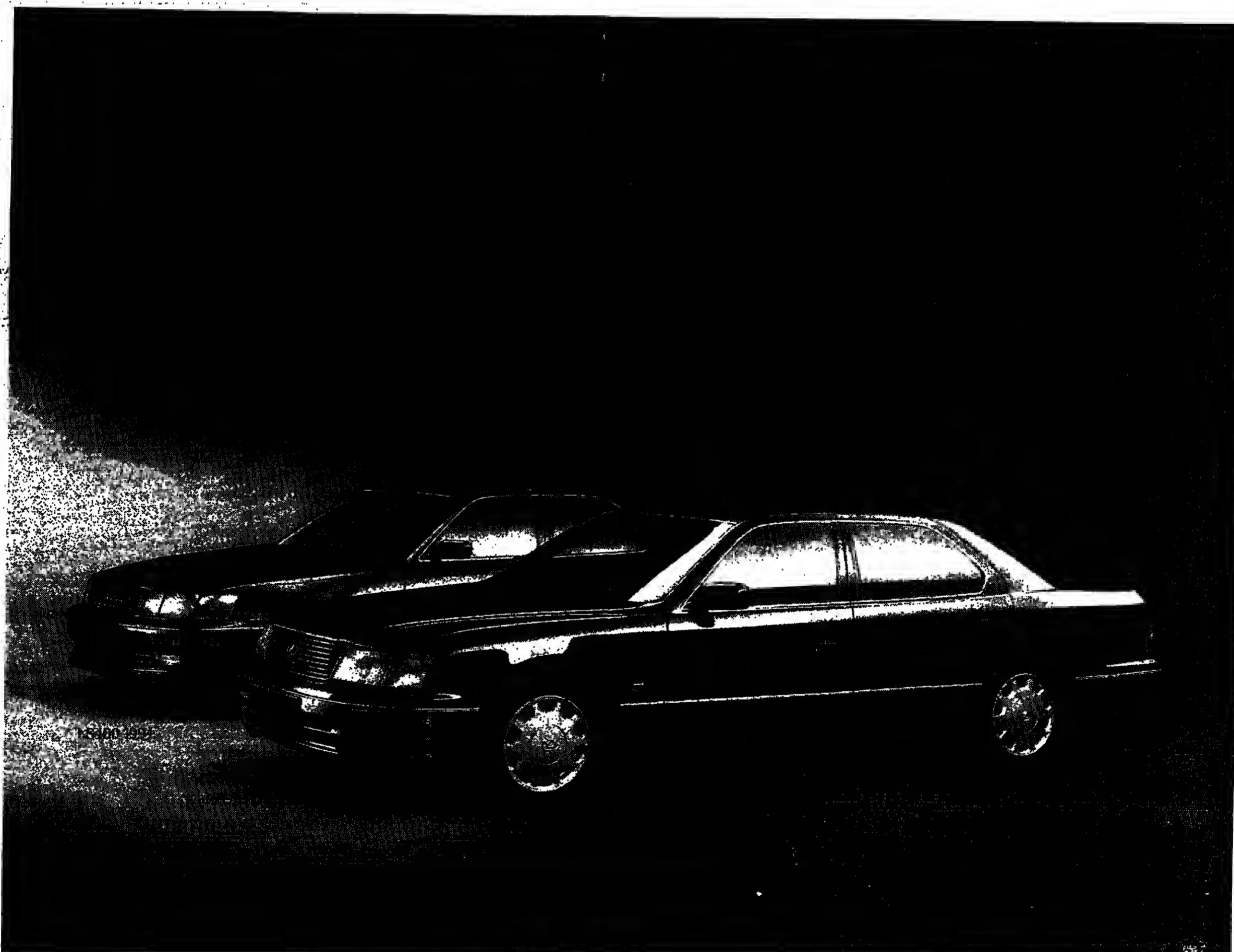
ICES
The International Commission
on the Environment and
Economics (ICES) has issued a
statement to the government, asking
them to take action to combat
inflation and unemployment.

Legislature
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to the government, asking them to take
action to combat inflation and
unemployment.

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asking them to take action to combat
inflation and unemployment.

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EUROPE

Americans to Join NATO Croatia Force

Communications Units to Aid In Cutback of UN Contingent

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — Some U.S. troops will be sent temporarily to Croatia as part of a small NATO military contingent expected to assist in the planned reduction of United Nations forces there, Defense Secretary William J. Perry said Monday.

A "small number" of North Atlantic Treaty Organization communications units, including some U.S. troops, will go into Croatia, said Mr. Perry, who welcomed an agreement by President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia to keep UN peacekeepers in his country.

Mr. Perry did not say how many U.S. or NATO troops would go to Croatia or when.

But he also told reporters at a Pentagon photo session with Defense Minister Joris Voorhoeve of the Netherlands that contingency planning was continuing for the possible use of U.S. and other NATO troops to protect any UN military withdrawal from Bosnia, where UN officials are struggling to pre-serve a cease-fire.

Mr. Tudjman, after meeting Vice President Al Gore at the UN meeting on poverty in Copenhagen, said over the weekend that the UN troops could stay in his country pending talks on cutting their numbers and changing their role to include patrolling Croatia's borders.

"I am very pleased with the agreement," Mr. Perry said, "because I have felt for some time that the UN force is doing a very important job in Croatia and in Bosnia. We want them to stay in there. This is one very important move in that direction."

Mr. Voorhoeve praised the agreement as "a tremendous success of American diplomacy" and said it was extremely important to nations such as the

Netherlands, which are contributing troops to the UN force in the former Yugoslavia.

NATO planes buzzed over Sarajevo on Monday after the worst weekend of shelling in months. Tensions persisted, with gunfire at the airport as a plane landed to pick up President Suharto of Indonesia.

The plane carrying Mr. Suharto, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas of Indonesia and General Faizal Tanjung, commander of Indonesia's armed forces, landed without incident.

"We are not sure if the plane was hit," said Major Pierre Chavancy, a UN spokesman.

The airport was closed Sunday after a plane carrying the top UN official in the former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, was hit by heavy machine gun fire and a Red Cross plane was hit by gunfire Saturday. Aid flights were suspended at least through Wednesday.

Mr. Akashi had come to try to persuade the Bosnian government and rebel Serbs to renew their commitment to a deteriorating, four-month truce that many had hoped would lead to peace.

After meeting government leaders in Sarajevo on Sunday, Mr. Akashi met Monday with the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, in Pale.

UN officials said they had asked for increased NATO surveillance flights following the worst violence in the city since the cease-fire took effect Jan. 1.

Mortar and gunfire killed at least six people and wounded seven over the weekend.

A 20-kilometer (12-mile) ring around Sarajevo is supposed to be free of heavy weapons under an agreement negotiated by the United Nations more than a year ago. But the so-called exclusion zone is frequently violated.

(Reuters, AP)

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Lionel Robert/The Associated Press

Presidents Fidel Castro and President François Mitterrand during their meeting Monday at the Elysée Palace in Paris.

In Slap at U.S., France Embraces Castro

By Craig R. Whitney
New York Times Service

PARIS — In a slap at American policy toward Cuba as he approaches the end of his term as president, François Mitterrand welcomed President Fidel Castro to Paris on Monday for a three-day private stay that has most of the hallmarks of a state visit.

Mr. Mitterrand, who has often described the U.S. blockade of Cuba as "stupid," welcomed Mr. Castro to the Elysée Palace Monday with military honors from the Presidential Guards and a formal lunch.

"I thought to myself: That's it, the end of apartheid," Mr. Castro told the French leader then. Later, he was also received by the president of the National Assembly and, on Tuesday, will talk to a delegation of business leaders. Before

he leaves Wednesday, he plans to visit Chablis at the invitation of a chicken magnate who does business in Cuba.

Mr. Castro flew in from Copenhagen, wrapped against the early morning cold in a green military overcoat, and was escorted to the government guest house, the Hôtel de Marigny.

There he was joined by Daniel Mitterrand, the president's wife. Mrs. Mitterrand has visited Mr. Castro in Cuba several times, most recently a month ago, when she gave a hospital a donation of \$2.5 million in the name of the France Liberties Association, a human rights group she heads as president.

Mrs. Mitterrand told French radio Sunday that the U.S. embargo was "cruel." Mr. Castro, she said, "was nothing like a dictator" when she first met him, on a visit to Cuba when Mr. Mitterrand was head of the Socialist International.

The Clinton administration has not objected to Mr. Castro's reception here, a U.S. diplomat said. Neither have any of the candidates hoping to succeed Mr. Mitterrand in May.

In his speech, he described the American embargo as "criminal" and said Cuba would never surrender to it.

No United States delegate was present; the Reagan administration suspended American membership in the organization.

The Clinton administration has not objected to Mr. Castro's reception here, a U.S. diplomat said. Neither have any of the candidates hoping to succeed Mr. Mitterrand in May.

Foreign Minister Alain Juppé, who supports the candidacy of the conservative mayor of Paris, Jacques Chirac, contradicted Mrs. Mitterrand's assertion that Mr. Castro was no dicator.

"He has been ooo," Mr.

Juppé said. "We consider that Cuba must make progress toward democracy and human

rights, which are oot respected as they should be in Cuba."

Mr. Mitterrand said over the weekend that he hoped Mr. Castro's visit to France would encourage "real liberty" in Cuba. Mr. Castro has been to Europe only twice before.

Some diplomats said they thought that the French president might also have intended the demonstrative welcome to pay back the United States for what French officials have criticized as U.S. interference in Algeria, as vexing a problem for France over the last 35 years as Cuba has been for the United States.

Mr. Mitterrand said he was "proud" of his daughter; and he attacked the media for harassing her, saying that the weekly magazine *Paris Match* should have considered his daughter's situation more carefully before publishing her pictures and story late last year.

Quoted in the conservative daily *Le Figaro*, Mr. Mitterrand, 78, said there was still hope that the prostate cancer from which he is suffering would not kill him.

The president has undergone two operations, and it was feared for a time that he might not live to the end of his second seven-year mandate in May.

Asked how he was feeling, Mr. Mitterrand said: "I am still tired, but I have overcome the stage of suffering." Asked how his illness was affecting his public life, he responded: "I am spending more time by myself."

But on a more optimistic note, he added: "I know I am 78 and that I have an illness which often kills. But not always. That 'not always' leaves a lot of room for hope."

"Children have fragile souls," Mr. Mitterrand said. "All this debacle surrounding Mazarine, a few months earlier, could have upset her balance and therefore her studies."

Mitterrand 'Overcomes' Suffering From Cancer

Agence France Presse

PARIS — President François Mitterrand, suffering from cancer, said in an interview Monday that he was tired but had "overcome the suffering" less than two months before the end of his 14-year presidency.

Quoted in the conservative daily *Le Figaro*, Mr. Mitterrand, 78, said there was still hope that the prostate cancer from which he is suffering would not kill him.

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INTERNATIONAL

Hassan's Fear for the Mideast

King Sees Wide Instability if Peace Ebbs

By Youssef M. Ibrahim
New York Times Service

RABAT, Morocco — King Hassan II of Morocco, a pillar of Middle East peace efforts for decades, has warned in an interview that the momentum for peace is receding, pushing Arabs and Israelis into "absolutist" positions.

The king, whose family has long maintained friendly ties with Israel and Jewish populations around the world, said that unless peace efforts moved ahead before the American and Israeli election seasons this summer, instability would sweep the region.

He spoke in his office here Saturday before leaving for the United States. Hassan said he would urge President Bill Clinton, whom he is to meet for the first time Wednesday, to reconsider the consequences of sanctions on Iraq and Libya.

"Iraq is a country and a population," the king said. "We must not see only the Iraq of Saddam Hussein. We must see the Iraqis of the next 10, 15, or 20 years. We cannot continue to humiliate and disgrace a people without thinking what may come of it."

The king said that sanctions deserved to be re-examined in light of their economic and social impact on the countries and their neighbors.

"There is an article in the United Nations Charter which says that if we impose sanctions upon a country, other countries that would be hurt by that would be compensated," he said. "Morocco now loses nearly \$1 billion a year because of the blockade of Libya and Iraq."

Hassan, who for 34 years has successfully balanced enforcement of Islamic religious practices with steady modernization of this country of 28 million, said he takes issue with those who characterize Islamic fundamentalism as the principal adversary of the West in the post-Communist years.

Islam, he asserts, is not to be confused with Islamic fundamentalism.

"I have yet to see a militant who advocates Islamic fundamentalism for the love of God. Fundamentalists preach their ideology because they consider Islam the elevator to take power. The day I see a fundamentalist who preaches religion for the love of God then I'll say, fine, let's listen. But so far, I haven't heard that."

He said the spread of fundamentalism and the sorry state of Middle East peace efforts were paramount concerns. "For all the parties involved; there is an important common denominator: time. The Palestinian Authority

The day I see a fundamentalist who preaches religion for the love of God then I'll say, fine, let's listen.

'But so far, I haven't heard that.'

King Hassan

must be affirmed as soon as possible. If we leave it in its present condition, it risks getting weaker. The time factor also plays for the Israelis, who will enter an electoral period in July. And the time factor also plays for the Americans because next year is a presidential election year," the king said.

Hassan said that he was confident that the "will for peace" that started in Madrid during the Middle East Peace conference of 1991 was "irreversible," but cautioned that it could be overtaken by "elements of instability."

"There is a psychological cross-fertilization that must be taken into account. Until now, the Arab world was against Israel because of the

Palestinians. As soon as the air cleared up between Palestinians and Israelis, the Arab world took a deep breath of relief. It is certain that if the situation became negative between Palestinians and Israelis, the Arab world will return to its questioning and could reverse the situation again."

Casting a look at a crisis closer to home, the king said that the war between Muslim fundamentalists in Algeria and its military-dominated government could be resolved only through dialogue.

"It is certain the Algerian drama is very regrettable for the Algerian people and their neighbors and for a certain image of Arabism and Islam."

He also noted, mockingly, that a NATO statement a few weeks ago said that the organization must now turn its attention to fighting fundamentalism.

"NATO is a defense organization for the North Atlantic region. I don't think NATO was created to fight fundamentalism, but to fight Soviet guns and missiles."

"Anyway, if fundamentalism has to be engaged in battle, it would not be done with tanks. Fundamentalists don't have armored divisions, they are not Scud missiles, and not an atomic weapon. It is a behavioral question, a psychology which cannot be fought with armadas but with other ideas."

Asked how it would be possible to resolve the issue of Jerusalem, Hassan said that the Israelis had to give some ground on Jerusalem.

"The Israelis can enlarge West Jerusalem as much as they like, but Holy Jerusalem is something that has been profoundly anchored in the Arab and Muslim world for 14 centuries. We are not claiming all of Jerusalem, but just that holy Muslim part of Jerusalem," he said.

"Now, do we tackle the Jerusalem problem immediately or in a further stage? That is a matter of strategy. We don't want everything. We want what's ours."



Prime Minister John Major of Britain laying a wreath at the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial center in Jerusalem on Monday, the second day of a three-day visit to Israel.

Christopher Hints At Mideast Progress After Seeing Assad

By John Lancaster
Washington Post Service

DAMASCUS — After meeting with President Hafez Assad for the first time in more than three months, Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher said Monday that he detected signs of progress toward a resumption of formal peace negotiations between Syria and Israel.

U.S. officials described re-starting the talks as one of the principal goals of Mr. Christopher's six-day Middle East tour, which began last week in Egypt and has included stops in Israel, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Although Mr. Christopher announced nothing concrete from his five-hour session with Mr. Assad, he has seemed determined to dispel the impression that had been growing in recent weeks that Israel's talks with Syria and the Palestinians were heading for an impasse.

In a brief statement before leaving Monday for Jordan and Israel, Mr. Christopher said that Syria and Israel were "once again engaging in serious discussions and are looking for ways to make progress."

In an apparently hopeful sign, he said he would return to Damascus on Tuesday morning for another meeting with Mr. Assad before heading for Washington in the afternoon. But Mr. Assad apparently stopped short of agreeing to the formal resumption of direct contacts between Syria and Israel that were broken off in December.

The secretary's first tour of the region since December also has been aimed at energizing stalled talks between Israel and the Palestinians on expansion of Palestinian self-rule and showing up support in Gulf states for continued United Nations sanctions against Iraq.

Mr. Assad has said he would not make peace with Israel until it returned the Golan Heights, which it captured in the 1967 Middle East war, a demand that Israel has rejected.

Syria and Israel have not been in direct contact since the breakdown of secret talks in Washington in December between their chiefs of staff. Syrian officials were frustrated by what they called "very fuzzy, intangible" Israeli proposals and saw no reason to continue, according to a Western diplomat in Damascus.

Syria then recalled its ambassador to Washington for the month of January, effectively shutting down its avenue to U.S. officials who have been mediating the talks.

Mr. Assad gave a speech to religious leaders last month offering no compromise with Israel. The state-run press offers daily fulminations against Israel's "intransigence" in the negotiations, and Syria recently rejected as insulting an Israeli offer to partly pull back from the Golan as a test of Syria's good intentions.

U.S. officials believe that if each side could sense some movement by the other on security guarantees, they might at least be induced to resume their discussions. That would be a major achievement in light of the current chill.

International Aid for Palestinians Falters

By Joel Greenberg
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — An international aid effort for the Palestinian Authority has been thrown into crisis because donors have not honored pledges to support a fund for the fledgling self-rule administration in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

The fund, administered by the World Bank to help cover the authority's operating expenses, has run out of money, aid officials said. The doors have failed to honor pledges worth about \$36 million out of \$60 million made at a meeting in Brussels in November.

The donors pledged at the meeting to provide an emergency aid package for the Palestinians through the end of March. The fund, called the Holst Peace Fund, was set up to help meet the authority's operating costs. It is named after Johan Jorgen Holst, the late foreign minister of Norway, who helped broker the September 1993 self-rule accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The Palestinian Authority has begun collecting taxes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Revenues fell last month, however, because Israel restricted entry for thousands of Palestinian laborers after a suicide bomb attack. United Nations officials in Gaza have estimated the loss to the economy there at \$2 million a day.

After the Israeli-Palestinian accord was signed, foreign donors pledged \$2.5 billion in aid for five years. But lack of coordination among donors and Palestinian inability to process the aid led to delays in delivery of contributions. Of \$800 million pledged for last year, only \$228 million was delivered.

Officials coordinating the aid effort were warned that the Israeli-Palestinian accord could unravel if it loses financial support. The current crisis threatens payment of salaries to about 24,000 employees of the Palestinian administration, including teachers, doctors and office staff.

Odin Knudsen, the World Bank representative in the West Bank and Gaza Strip,

said donors were less eager to give money for such day-to-day expenses than for development projects.

"This aid is invisible, because it shows up in salaries and not in new roads or sewage systems," he said.

While the United States honored its \$12 million pledge for the Holst Fund, several European and Gulf nations are among the donors that have not made their payments.

The officials said the Europeans had been slowed by bureaucratic delays. The Gulf states, which pledged more than \$20 million, are reluctant to help Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, who heads the authority.

Gulf nations cut off earlier financial support for the PLO after Mr. Arafat supported Iraq during the Gulf War.

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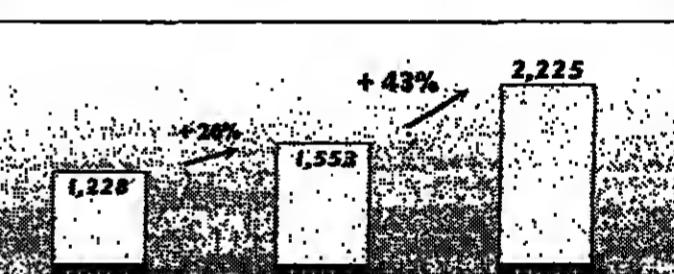


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To pursue its growth strategy, Lafarge Coppée strengthened its financial resources in 1994:

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Protect the Depositors

When Barings collapsed last month, it seemed astounding that a 28-year-old trader could single-handedly have sunk a bank with two centuries of experience behind it. But perhaps that is not quite the way it happened. While a great many questions remain to be answered by the various inquiries now under way, a different and more troubling impression of the bank's fall is emerging. There are simple ways to control reckless young traders. It is harder to protect a bank from a management that turns a blind eye to dangerous speculation producing a stream of profits and fattening executives' bonuses.

Four items suggest that the poor judgment at Barings was not confined to the Singapore trading operation that ran up those huge and fatal losses.

Item one: In the two months before the bankruptcy the bank transferred more than \$800 million to its Singapore office for collateral and margin calls on its speculations. Transfers of that size were an unambiguous warning that something far out of the ordinary was going on. The alarm bells were ringing.

Item two: As the bank's liabilities rose, the Singapore International Monetary Exchange summoned a senior executive from London to assure them that Barings was aware of its position. That meeting was

on Feb. 8, 18 days before the bank failed. Item three involves the peculiar circumstance that the young trader, Nicholas W. Leeson, was also in charge of clearing the paperwork for his own trading. That eliminated the usual check on unauthorized operations. In a memorandum written nearly three years ago the head of the Singapore office protested this arrangement to the bank's management in London, warning that it could lead to "disastrous" losses.

Item four is the internal audit report done by the bank itself last August again citing this "excessive concentration of power" in Mr. Leeson.

The Barings autopsy is worth following because the lessons drawn from it are going to influence regulation in America, where Congress is undertaking a basic revision of the banking laws. If banks are to be allowed to trade on their own accounts, with their own money, as Barings was doing in Singapore, that operation needs to be absolutely segregated from the part of the bank that takes insured deposits from the public. The structure needs to protect depositors not only from maverick traders but also from top management complacent enough or hungry enough for profits to throw caution to the winds.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Adams at the White House

As soon as Gerry Adams indicated a willingness to discuss decommissioning the weapons of the Irish Republican Army, President Bill Clinton extended him a St. Patrick's Day invitation to the White House, and permission to raise funds in the United States. Mr. Clinton was right to resist British pressure to snub the Sinn Fein leader. It was silly for the British to argue that Washington deny Mr. Adams the ability to raise money in America, when he is allowed to do so in England.

Mr. Clinton was sympathetic to the Irish concern that Britain, determined to remain in charge of the timetable for peace talks, was dragging its feet. He saw an opportunity to move things along, and he took it. The Irish government made clear that it had no objections to Mr. Adams being present at the March 17 celebrations at the White House along

with Irish Prime Minister John Bruton. Mr. Clinton resisted the advice of many of his closest advisers to continue the fund-raising ban. Surely the president was aware that his gesture would do him no harm in heavily Irish-American states like New York and Massachusetts. Still, he was right to choose the chance to speed up the peace process over the risk of angering the British.

Now that Mr. Adams has agreed to put demilitarization on the table, the British can help by agreeing to talks with Sinn Fein at the ministerial level. But Mr. Adams has an obligation now, too. He must vindicate Mr. Clinton's gesture by acting responsibly, making sure the money raised in America is used for peaceful purposes and coming up with concrete proposals that will, to use his own words, remove the gun from Irish politics.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Submarines Can Wait

As House Republicans slash money for job training, education, homeless youths and dozens of other domestic programs to save \$15 billion this year, it would be salutary if someone in the leadership had the gumption to mention the Seawolf submarine. The Republican Senator John McCain, hardly a dove on defense spending, would save \$2.3 billion this year alone by halting construction of one of these new, unnecessary attack submarines.

With or without a balanced budget amendment, Congress is not going to put the federal ledger in equilibrium by 2002 unless it starts now to make reductions in Pentagon spending, which is \$264 billion this year and projected to total \$1.2 trillion over the next five years. A good place to start is expensive new weapons that are no longer needed, and a good example is new attack submarines. If Congress re-examines the Pentagon's requirements for attack submarines, and postpones new purchases, it can save at least \$10 billion in the coming decade.

The Pentagon admits that it has no need for a third Seawolf, an attack submarine designed to counter a now defunct Soviet navy. Building it at the Electric Boat works in Groton, Connecticut, has one purpose — to keep a second submarine production line running until construction of a new fleet of attack submarines begins in 1996. But if Groton is shut down and the life span of existing submarines is extended by five years, to 35, new purchases can be postponed for several years.

Buying new submarines can be put off still longer if the navy revises the way it uses them. While the Pentagon says it needs 45 to 55 submarines, half that number would suffice. North Korea, for in-

stance, has 24 submarines; Iran just two. Yet the navy wants as many as 67. It also wants 10 to 12 to be a new, quieter model to counter new Russian submarines.

What drives the requirement for submarines is not preparation for war but peacetime presence, the Pentagon's euphemism for intelligence-gathering and tailing Russian submarines that carry missiles. Both missions are open to question.

Submarines are routinely dispatched along with American forces to intercept communications. Permanent presence is a much more demanding requirement. The navy has three or four submarines in the Mediterranean, a similar number in the Pacific and one or two in the Indian Ocean. For every sub permanently on station, the navy needs five or six in overhaul, on rotation or in transit. What intelligence targets warrant such presence now?

Tailing Russian submarines is an even more dubious mission. Russia is scrapping land-based missiles to satisfy arms accords, increasing its reliance on submarine-launched missiles for deterrence. Having U.S. attack submarines prowling Russian waters makes Moscow reticent to reduce its land-based force further and anxious to protect its sea-based force with quiet attack submarines.

A reduction in peacetime presence could allow the U.S. Navy to operate with 30 attack submarines. The start of submarine construction, even to satisfy the higher requirements, can wait. The first submarines built after a long hiatus could cost more and take longer to construct. The price would be small compared with the savings.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Other Comment

Don't Count on Milosevic

There is blood on all hands in the Balkans. Yet, to quote from a highly classified CIA report leaked to the press, "Serbs carried out at least 90 percent of the ethnic cleansing in Bosnia."

The timing of the CIA leak is not accidental. Clearly, some in the agency fear a British-French move to lift the UN economic sanctions against Serbia-Montenegro in the hope that President Slobodan Milosevic might then change his

ways and cooperate in seeking peace. The leak, exposing Mr. Milosevic, aims to dissuade the Clinton administration from supporting any such move.

Whatever Britain and France do, the United States should not lift the sanctions on Belgrade. Doing so would have tragic symbolic meaning. It is folly to yield to the principal war-maker in hopes that, cooing the entire pattern of his past behavior, he may lead the way to peace.

—Los Angeles Times.

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—Los Angeles Times.

International Herald Tribune

ESTABLISHED 1887

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S.A. Advertising Office: 1,200,000 F. RCS Nanterre B 73202126. Commission Partitaire No. 61337
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The Atlantic Allies Have Responsibilities to Assume

By Rudolph Scharping

The writer is chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Germany.

BONN — This is the 50th year since the end of the greatest disaster of the century. As we Germans commemorate our liberation from National Socialism and the end of World War II, we ponder the lessons for the world today.

We know well the dangers that must be avoided so that history does not repeat itself. Germany today has become a stable democracy. It is part of a highly integrated community of West European countries, among which another such war has become inconceivable. That community is linked, in turn, across the Atlantic to a democratic America.

Preserving and strengthening the links between democracies that were of such essential importance during the Cold War is of the utmost urgency today. For we now confront a post-Communist era that is far more destabilizing than we had imagined when the Berlin Wall fell five years ago. The Atlantic democracies have rightly looked in this period to the United Nations as a central instrument for creating an international order based on the rule of law and human rights.

The greatest dangers to this infrastructure of peace are isolationism, unilateralism and the refusal of democratic states to accept international responsibility. Of late, views of this kind are being voiced loudly in the United States. And that could have the disastrous consequence of reinforcing similar trends in Europe.

To be sure, there is room for criticism of actions undertaken by the United Nations, which in every instance can only be the sum of the contributions made by its members. However, if such criticism leads

to focus on social problems when unemployment levels are high, especially in the East, must not lead us to neglect problems in the world around us.

If we ignore those crises now, they will return to haunt us. When that happens it is often too late to do anything about it.

For Germany, the Atlantic alliance is the chief means of grappling with external problems. As the key institution guaranteeing security and stability in Europe, the alliance today confronts the problem of how to relate to Eastern Europe and Russia.

The Chechnya crisis reveals the difficulty of the task. This war is by no means just a problem for Russia. We can never forget that an unstable and unpredictable Russia will still be a global power armed with nuclear weapons. We do not know the extent to which our policies can actually promote the desired trends in Russia. However, we can and must state openly that what we want — what is in the interest of the Atlantic democracies — is a Russian partner that is democratic and governed by the rule of law.

The American Congress, no less than the German Bundestag or the British or French parliaments, must understand that it is shortsighted to formulate foreign policy solely on the basis of domestic political considerations.

This mentality of withdrawal and neo-isolationism is evident in my own country as well. The understandable tendency

of alliances, but it will continue to be necessary to involve Russia at all levels in the process of shaping security and stability in post-Communist Europe.

Appropriate consideration must be given to Russia's status and its perception as a major power. Active development of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the European Union policy of cooperation with Russia, serve this objective.

Russia isolated itself to its own disadvantage when it rejected the Marshall Plan. The Atlantic democracies must do everything they can to keep Russia from repeating that mistake. At the same time — since all candidates for membership cannot join NATO simultaneously, due to their differing abilities to fulfill such criteria as having a functioning democracy or protecting minority rights — a wide range of political, economic and military ties must be created with the East European states before formal alliance guarantees are established. The guiding principle of a post-Cold War European security architecture must be to avoid a new division of Europe or the new formation of blocs.

Because Germany disregarded international law and human rights more than a half-century ago, we have special obligations now. Refusal by Germany or any other Atlantic democracy to take up its responsibilities and duties not only would undermine the effectiveness of the Atlantic alliance, the United Nations and other international organizations. It would fly in the face of the moral conclusions we have drawn from German history.

New Perspectives Quarterly.

Slow Growth, Not Quick Expansion, for Europe's Security Structure

By Frederick Bonnard

BRUSSELS — Expansion eastward has preoccupied NATO since the end of the Cold War. But three years of debate has not been enough to solve the two core quandrums: how to satisfy the security concerns of the countries formerly under Soviet domination without appearing to create a new barrier against Russia, and how to absorb new members without weakening the alliance.

The pressure is maintained by those countries and by powerful elements in the U.S. Congress and State Department. None of these parties appear to have fully understood the difficulties and costs of the operation, both to themselves and to the alliance.

From the Russian viewpoint, eastward NATO expansion is illogical. It can be understood only by assuming that Russia is a permanent threat to Europe, brooding on Europe's borders until it has amassed sufficient strength to dominate; if this scenario appears incredible, expansion is not justified. But it can only lead to the very eventual that it is trying to prevent. Witnessing the massive growth of an organization formerly considered Russia's main threat, and from which it is excluded, Russia will adopt the feared brooding position.

Such considerations led to Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev's refusal last December to sign two previously accepted documents: Russia's individual partnership program, and the summary of conclusions for an extended dialogue with NATO.

Russian concerns have since been addressed in increasingly intensive conversations between senior U.S. and Russian officials. They will be taken further by Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Mr. Kozyrev in Geneva later this month. This is the "parallel process" recently mentioned by Vice President Al Gore, intended to establish a more clearly defined and deeper relationship between Russia and NATO.

While firmly rejecting any Russian veto right over NATO membership for Central and Eastern Europe, the process would offer considerable automaticity in consultations, as well as full transparency of NATO decisions.

It remains to be seen whether the pill is sweet enough to overcome Russian objections.

Meanwhile, the initial enthusiasm in NATO, strongly fostered by the late Secretary-General Manfred Wörner, is abating as realities begin to sink in.

NATO membership is not meant to be exclusive, but the alliance has taken in only four new members since its foundation in 1949, and at spaced intervals. Greece and Turkey joined in February 1952, Germany in May 1955 and Spain in May 1982. All of them satisfied sound political and strategic criteria.

The present candidates are far more numerous. Starting with the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, they include Bulgaria, further south and the three Baltic states in the north. Albania and Slovenia are not far behind. Clearly, not all applicants could join simultaneously.

But even if only one were admitted initially, it would be hard to resist the pressure from the others for very long.

NATO's 16 member countries thus have to examine the practicability of a North Atlantic Council of 20, then 22, 25, perhaps 27 members, in which the unanimous-decision principle means the ability of any one to block decisions by all others.

A study launched by the foreign ministers this past December will have to show how expansion would improve the security of any new members and also that of the alliance. It will list the costs of expansion for present as well as prospective members, and address the matter of redeployment of conventional and nuclear forces.

Considerable efforts would be asked of new members: Democratic control of the armed forces, transparency on defense budgets and plans, modernization of the armed forces and their harmonization with those of NATO would be prerequisites. They would be expected to fund their participation in common NATO infrastructure and other programs.

NATO members would have to envisage deploying forces and headquarters, as well as infrastructure assets such as air defenses, communications networks and pre-positioned stocks, on the new territories. Parliaments, including the U.S. Congress, would have to authorize considerable additional spending.

Yet in the absence of a threat in the foreseeable future, the immediate need of the Central and East European countries is not for a security guarantee. It is to establish new political and economic structures on a firm basis.

It is therefore far more important for them to concentrate on entering the European Union, with which significant advances have already been made. Together with closer European association will come firmer links with the Union's defense element, the Western European Union, which is linked to NATO. In the meantime, participation in NATO's Partnership for Peace program will enable these countries gradually to achieve the military conditions required for closer cooperation.

This means a slow growth process rather than a radical change in Europe's security structure. The security organization that will then come about will be different from today's groupings. But, unlike sudden NATO expansion, it will ensure effectiveness and credibility.

The writer is editor of *NATO's Sixteen Nations*, an independent military journal published in Brussels. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1895: Cushioned Cats

LONDON — An interesting Cat Show was opened at St. Stephen's Hall, Westminster, yesterday [March 14]. There were nearly six hundred entries. Every attention appears to have been bestowed upon the comfort of the animals by the management, whose solicitude has been supplemented by the owners providing soft delicate cushions and setting off the temporary homes of their pets by prettily curtains fringed with lace.

That is why I would attend the statue's unveiling if invited.

His rise and fall were instructive because his two-timing was out of joint. Never take money in envelopes while in office; that's graft, a crime compounded by hypocrisy when accompanied by eloquent ethical exhortations. Instead, take the money by check, with taxes withheld, for books after leaving office — or, if you are impatient, at least not in advance of publication. It enriches historical understanding as it fattens your wallet.

That is for aspiring politicians to learn, as

Assume

Making Sense of the Heroic Futility

By Robert Stone

KEY WEST, Florida — On the night of Jan. 31, 1968, a young Vietnamese peasant named Nguyen Van San sat with about 20 compatriots in a garage not far from the center of Saigon. It was the first night after Tet, the lunar new year. Although Communist attacks the night before had caused the official annual Tet cease-fire to be canceled, the city was full of visitors celebrating the holiday.

Like the rest, San and his friends had come to town by bus or on foot carrying holiday packages. But they

What would it be like to walk around the former Saigon today with one of the American soldiers or one of the Vietnamese who died fighting there?

were not in Saigon to celebrate. They were members of Sapper Battalion C-10 of the Vietcong, and their packages were weapons.

San had grown up illiterate in Cu Chi Province, just outside the capital. In the National Liberation Front he had learned to read and write, and had been instructed in the front's version of exalted patriotism.

As a special honor, he was invited to join the Communist Party. And now he had been singled out again. The men and women of Sapper Battalion C-10 were going to attack the United States Embassy.

Around 2:45 A.M., their little convoy set out. It consisted of two vehicles: an old Peugeot van and a taxi of the same make, both familiar vehicles on Saigon streets.

The embassy was a fortress, a \$2.5 million complex that fairly dominated downtown Saigon. Its key buildings featured shatterproof Plexiglass, and the compound was surrounded by an 8-foot (2.4 meter) wall.

Shortly before 3 A.M., the guerrillas in the taxi opened fire on the military police post at the main entrance. The MPs returned fire and slammed shut and padlocked the steel gate. The Vietcong in the van, which stopped around the corner, breached the wall with an anti-tank explosive.

In seconds a commando squad of about two dozen was pouring through it. The two military policemen turned to face them. The first American to die was Specialist 4 Charles Daniel of Durham, North Carolina. He and his partner, Private William Sebest of Albany, New York, fell defending their positions.

and their refusal to yield or withdraw probably spoiled the attack.

U.S. reinforcements soon arrived, and the battle for the embassy grounds went on through the night. By around 9 A.M., all of the attackers had been killed or captured. The American dead consisted of the two MPs and one marine.

Up until that point in the war, nearly 20,000 Americans had died along with hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese. More than 80,000 Americans and an estimated 4 million Vietnamese, soldiers and civilians, would die before it was over.

Early on Jan. 31, 1968, there was fierce fighting in Saigon and all over Vietnam. But the attack on the embassy, in its quixotic effrontery, was perhaps the engagement that most fascinated the world.

In January this year I spent a few days in Saigon, which is now called Ho Chi Minh City. It was coming up on Tet and everyone was buying presents. People were carrying little potted tangerine trees and apricot flowers, and visitors from the north were carrying peach bouquets and blossoms, which don't grow in the southern part of the country.

The town was booming as never before. Foreign businesses, including plenty of Americans, were everywhere. On the roof of the Rex, the hotel that once was the American bachelor officers' quarters tourists and local plutocrats were dining on frogs' legs. The old gourmet restaurants are gone, but new ones seem to be opening every day.

On what was the Rue Cambon before it was Tu Do Street, before it was Dong Khoi Street, antique porcelain and jewelry are for sale. Visitors can buy silk dresses, made to measure by shops whose employees will stitch through the night to have the garments ready in the morning.

A few old billboards enjoin Marxist morality — one condemns bootlegging — but the touts and the girls and the transvestites are all back in the same old places.

What would it be like to take a walk around town with Specialist 4 Daniel, Private Sebest and Nguyen Van San and his comrades of C-10, one of these lovely holiday evenings, 27 years after the attack that killed them? Would they guess who had won the war in which they died? Surely the Americans would have thought it was their side. And San might be amazed at the fruits of the Communists' victory.

Vietnamese communism was not going to threaten Durham, North Carolina. He and his partner, Private William Sebest of Albany, New York, fell defending their positions.

it was. It was not even going to trouble Saigon all that long.

Nor was the earth about to rise on new foundations for San, although he might take some comfort in the new name for the GIs' old haunt, Tu Do Street. Dong Khoi, formerly Tu Do, means Spontaneous Uprising — presumably the one San and his friends waited all night in vain for in 1968.

Although the uprising never

came, they changed the street name anyhow. That's how politicians are.

Today, many a deal is in the making. In Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, new factories will soon make Wick liquid soap and Sunlight detergent for the Vietnamese kitchen.

And before long there will be a new U.S. Embassy in Hanoi.

How tragic it all is. Perhaps such a squandering of young lives ought to be consigned to the realm of private grief, reflecting more shame than glory on the causes served.

Yet we find ourselves moved and inspired by the heroism of young people who do their duty, who serve with all the vigor of their youth, strength and courage. The political futility of their sacrifice gives it a poignancy that is somehow ennobling. Even the Hemingway of "A Farewell to Arms," professing revulsion at the rhetoric of heroism, movingly employed it and became the high priest of martial virtue.

After a period of denial and ambiguity, the United States began erecting fitting monuments to the American bachelor officers' quarters tourists and local plutocrats were dining on frogs' legs. The old gourmet restaurants are gone, but new ones seem to be opening every day.

We have never succeeded in replacing proper conduct on the field of battle as the ultimate measure of courage and loyalty. We have not developed that "moral equivalent of war" that William James so wisely and impossibly called for.

Knowing not a whit more than the ancient Greeks, we console ourselves as they did in catharsis, in stoic acceptance and tragic ritual. Our celebration of death in battle is, from a certain perspective, utterly irrational. Yet it is our only means of imposing some degree of meaning on war's meaningless destruction, the only way we have of facing the eternal ironies of history.

The writer, whose novel about the Vietnam War, "Dog Soldiers," won a National Book Award in 1975, is author most recently of "Outerbridge Reach." He contributed this comment to The New York Times.

OPINION/LETTERS

Signs of a Paris Spring, and None Too Soon

By John L. Phillips

PARIS — Signs of spring aren't as coy as they were a few days ago. They're turning into proclamations of the real thing. No stampede yet, no, but the trend is heartening. It doesn't matter that the winter past was benign: the heart aches, every time, for springtime.

In Angers, in the west, a couple

MEANWHILE

of weeks ago, I saw a few apple trees that just then, at that very

hour, were budding into bud.

And now even trees in Paris — always, it seems, one of the last places to give in and just go ahead and blossom — are tentatively following suit.

In the air there is that certain mildness that daffying halm, that lightly lifting scosation ricochetting around the instinct bin — nothing at all to do with brains or intelligence — which happily pro-

duces the oo-the-spot report: Spring's almost here.

Oh boy, and not a day too soon. Take today, one of those days when you try to harness the spring in your chest. Certainly a spring sky. Just take a gander. Quickenings winds have flushed last night's raininess. The clouds, still crowding, are hankering on one another, nervous kids and knowing elders at some kind of wacky audition. Tough whites and bristly purple-grays, elbowing their ways toward a six-item checkout line only they can see.

Dark towers, looming and closing, but suddenly veering, bowing deftly from the waist to allow both stately passage and now-and-then quick glimpses of pale blue patches beyond. And small darts nipping at nothing whatsoever — outdoing at all — but *nearby* delivering "chasing each others' tails."

Frank said that image was O.K. by him because "it doesn't use the word 'scudding.'"

"According to every under-new-management Hemingway & Co. that comes along," he wrote, "Parisian clouds are forever scud-

ding. Good lord — *scudding*."

Frank lives on the southern shore of Lake Ontario. Clouds come in attack waves at him all the time. He knows what scudding is and isn't, and he still teaches me what things are and aren't. So no, no, scudding here, thanks.

So to hell with noodling about gerunds, about scudding or romping or blustering. There'll be bigger fish to fry any day now: circuses of Parisian clouds, a studiously overhunkered bunch. In this minor enterprise of my stepfather, a longtime pal and a literate man to whom I wrote one even windier March day that the clouds over Paris were

chasing each others' tails."

The real sign still reads: PARIS IN THE SPRING. Send in the clouds.

This essay was found among the papers of the writer, an editor of the International Herald Tribune, after his death from cancer last July.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Stable Dollar for All

Rudiger Dornbusch's article "For the Dollar, No Bottom in Sight and Nothing to Do" (Opinion, March 10) may be based on economic realities but it smacks of an open invitation to engage in speculation.

The honorable professor should bear in mind that the dollar's persistent woes are neither good for the U.S. economy nor helpful in establishing economic stability worldwide — the proclaimed goal of the Group of Seven industrialized countries.

Non-American citizens of the world should not be indirectly taxed by the reckless policies of Uncle Sam.

JAGDISH BHASKER,
Puteaux, France.

The Embargo on Bosnia

Regarding "If the Serbs Don't Sign the Plan, Lift the Arms Embargo on Bosnia" (Opinion, Feb. 23) by Haris Silajdzic:

In addition to Prime Minister Silajdzic's compelling reasons for exempting Bosnia from the unjust United Nations arms embargo, it must be understood that continued application of the embargo violates international law.

It violates Bosnia's inherent right of sovereignty, territorial integrity and self-defense. Articles 2(4) and 51 of the UN Charter, which codify that right; the United

Nations Convention on Genocide; the rights of Bosnia under subsequent Security Council resolutions providing for the defense of the "safe areas" of BiHac, Goradzje, Srebrenica, Tuzla, Zepa and Sarajevo; and two General Assembly resolutions calling for states to aid Bosnia in the exercise of its right to self-defense. States enforcing the arms embargo violate the principles of justice and international law.

PAUL R. WILLIAMS,
London.

Mr. Silajdzic speaks of his "firm commitment to a pluralistic and democratic society," yet he refers to Bosnia's second largest constituent group, the Serbs, as "aggressors," "occupiers" and "proxies." Mr. Silajdzic's message to the Bosnian Serbs is clear: "I want to drive you from your homeland."

His talk of a pluralistic state is a facade. His ruling Democratic Action Party was the first mono-ethnic party in Bosnia and it has its roots in pan-Islamic ideology. From the start, its goal has been to create a Muslim-ruled state.

Notwithstanding their participation in every negotiating forum, the Bosnian Muslim leaders have consistently refused to meet face-to-face with the elected leaders of the Bosnian Serbs. In 1992, they rejected the negotiating table and chose war, expecting foreign military in-

tervention to help them achieve their objectives. Their position has not changed to this day.

GEORGE TINTOR.

MICHAEL BAKER.

London.

Separated and Unequal

Regarding "Jobs Alone Don't Seem To Suffice" (Opinion, Feb. 25) by William Raspberry:

Mr. Raspberry fails to mention the primary cause of the increase in family separations: the incentive that U.S. welfare programs give to low-income mothers and fathers not to raise their children together.

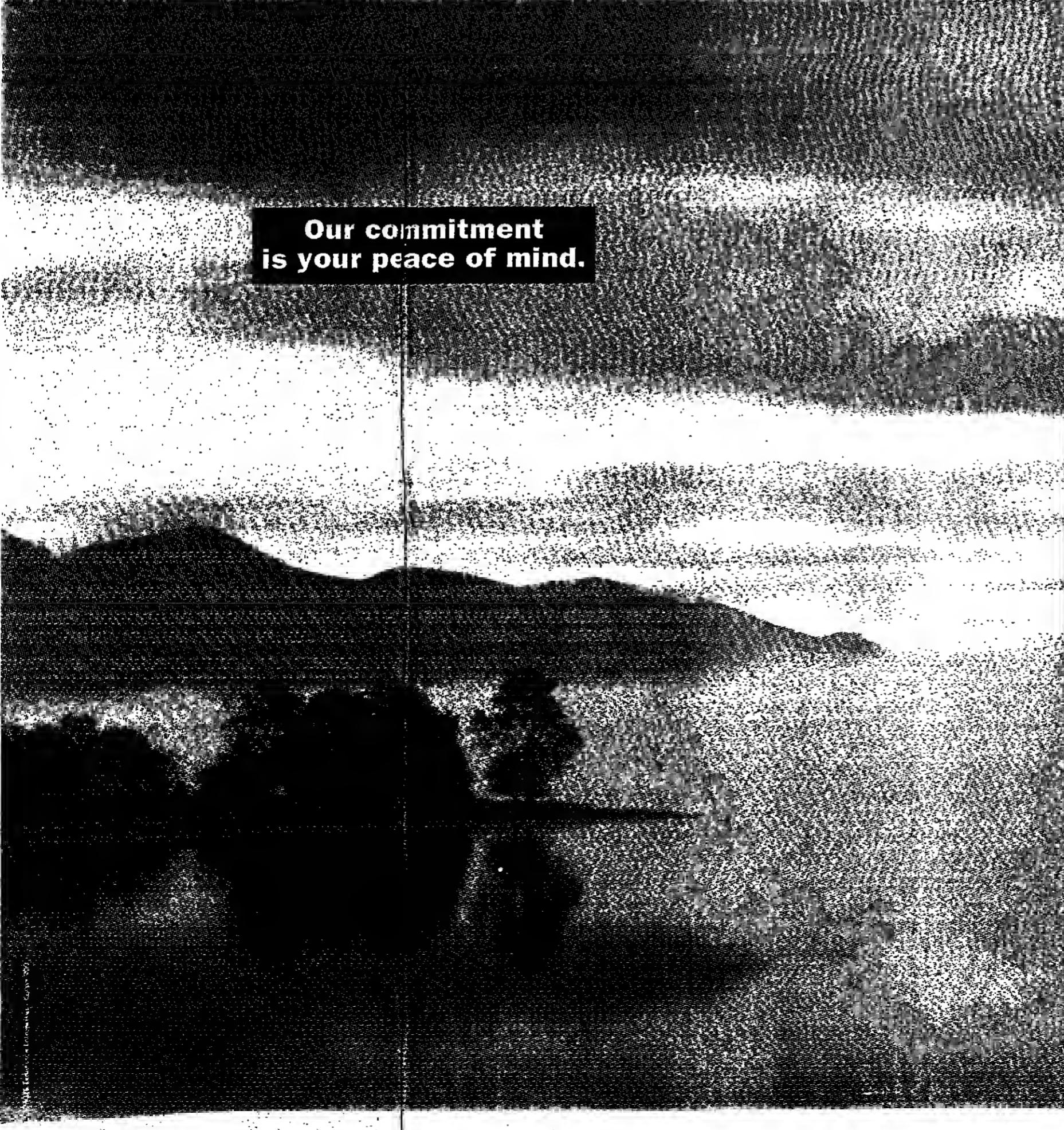
The higher rates of violence and lower scholastic achievement among children of separated families are well documented. The advantages of two-parent families are profound. For which two-parent families have time, such as helping children with homework or explaining life's difficulties, show clearly that children with two parents enjoy a better quality of life.

Mr. Raspberry also asserts that our modern family organization is primordial. But a look at the polygamous, matriarchal and extended families described in anthropology textbooks shows that what is primordial in all these family organizations is the need for more than one person to give love to a child.

Mr. Raspberry seems to assume that fathers are no longer interested

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and contain the writer's signature, name and full address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. We cannot be responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

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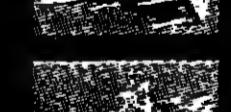
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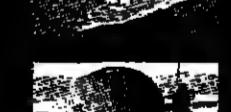
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INTERNATIONAL

Afghan Shiite Force's Chief Dies, But Fighters Disagree on How

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

KABUL — The leader of Afghanistan's opposition Shiite Islamic Coalition Council was killed Monday after being captured by the Taliban student militia, rival government and Taliban officials said.

There was disagreement over how the council leader, Abdul Ali Mazari, died. A Taliban spokesman in Pakistan said Mr. Mazari died in a struggle with his guards aboard a helicopter.

But Afghan government officials, speaking on condition of

anonymity, said he died in a helicopter crash while his captors were transporting him from their base at Charasyab, 30 kilometers (18 miles) south of Kabul.

Government commanders monitoring Taliban communications said Mr. Mazari and the 14 other people on board the helicopter had died.

But in Peshawar, Pakistan, a Taliban spokesman said Mr. Mazari was killed in a gun battle with Taliban guards.

The spokesman, Mohammed

Massom Afghani, said the fight occurred while Mr. Mazari was being flown from Charasyab to Kandahar in southern Afghanistan.

According to Mr. Afghani, the fighting on the aircraft broke out when Mr. Mazari snatched a rifle from a Taliban guard. Mr. Mazari opened fire, killing six Taliban guards, before being gunned down by the others. Mr. Afghani said, adding that the helicopter was able to reach Kandahar.

Mr. Mazari was earlier reported to have been captured by Taliban members in Kabul. A Western journalist said he had photographed Mr. Mazari at Charasyab on Saturday.

Mr. Mazari was a leading figure in the rebellion against the Soviet-backed Communist government in Kabul. His group, the Islamic Coalition Council, was created by eight Afghan Shiite factions after Soviet troops withdrew in 1989.

In the factional fighting that has raged since the Soviets left, the Taliban force is a relative newcomer. The force, made up of Muslim students, has made spectacular gains, and now controls nine provinces.

On Sunday, however, it was forced out of Kabul in its first defeat, and Afghan government forces moved on a Taliban stronghold Monday.

The latest confrontations were at Rishkor, not far from Charasyab, the next probable target of President Burhanuddin Rabbani's forces.

(AFP, Reuters)

Islanders Fear Eruption Of Volcano in Vanuatu

Agence France Presse

NABANGAHAKE, Vanuatu — Frightened islanders of Amhah, fearing the eruption of a volcano, are slaughtering their livestock and eating their food reserves, a village chief said Monday.

Some of the 11,000 islanders have been warned that they may soon be evacuated because of the "serious potential risk" from the Amhah volcano, which began spewing clouds of thick smoke and ash on March 3.

The islanders have begun to eat heartily, said Noel Tahi, a chief in Nabangahake, a village that is within a 10-kilometer (6-mile) radius of the volcano.

About 3,000 people within the circle will be evacuated if the risk increases, the National Disaster Management Office said last week.

"The people think they're going to move quickly from their homes, because of what they hear on the radio, so they're killing their cows, pigs and digging up their taro roots," Mr. Tahi said.

The island is the upper part of the archipelago's biggest active volcano.

BOOKS

THE RIVALS: William Gwin, David Broderick and the Birth of California

By Arthur Quinn. 320 pages. \$25. Crown.

Reviewed by Greg Mitchell

ONE of America's most famous duels took place on Sept. 13, 1859, just outside San Francisco. It ended with the fatal wounding of a U.S. senator, David Broderick. The man who fired the shot was a state supreme court justice named David Terry, who came to be known as "the dueling judge." Broderick had questioned Terry's character, and he paid with his life. Hatred and lunacy had been building in Gold Rush California for a decade, culminating in the Broderick-Terry duel, which provides the climax for Arthur Quinn's new book "The Rivals."

Broderick's true rival, as Quinn makes clear in often vivid prose, was not David Terry, but William K. Gwin, his fellow U.S. senator. Broderick and Gwin were both Democrats, but they came from different social classes. One was a refined gentleman, the other an angry brute. "This is the story of two men — of how they achieved great power and how through their implacable rivalry they destroyed each other," observes Quinn, who is also the author of a history of colonial America.

Quinn begins his saga with Gwin's arrival in San Francisco in 1849. Gwin was a physician and attorney, a former U.S. congressman, a plantation owner from Mississippi with an attractive wife who loved to throw parties. "He had come west for one thing," Quinn declares, "and one thing only. That was power." Gwin aimed to attend the state's constitutional convention and dominate it and thereby win election to the U.S. Senate when California gained statehood. In-

credibly, it all came to pass, just like that.

Broderick did not have it so easy; he never had. Some would later refer to him as the first man of "nunlike origins" to reach the U.S. Senate. His father was an Irish immigrant stonemason who helped build the Capitol in Washington. Broderick learned his style of brass-knuckle politics — this was meant literally then — in New York's Tammany Hall. Finding his path to public office blocked by class prejudice, he set off for California, also in 1849. Soon he had established a Tammany-like organization in San Francisco and set his sights on a Senate seat, which inevitably brought him into conflict with Gwin.

Despite belonging to the same party, they represented entirely different interests: "the Chivalry" (Gwin) versus "the shovelful" (Broderick). The Chivalry wing was dominated by well-to-do, recent arrivals from the South, who "deeply distrusted the people," supported slavery and possibly even secession. Broderick's working-class constituents opposed slavery and were fiercely pro-Union. The two factions never united, even though each had to contend, first, with the rise of the nativist Know Nothing party, and then the infamous vigilante committees, which terrorized San Francisco (helped by a few public hangings). When the two leaders finally banded to-

gether in 1856, it was not to pass a meaningful statute or save the state from anarchy, but rather to break a deadlock and guarantee that Gwin would be returned to the U.S. Senate — and that Broderick would win election to that chamber at last.

But once he got to Washington, the crude Broderick found that he was still the outsider and Gwin the established favorite of President James Buchanan. Broderick became a bitter, broken man. He insulted Judge Terry, who shot him dead in their tragic duel (he was just 39 at the time). Gwin was blamed for the "assassination" of Broderick, but an even larger issue intervened, the outbreak of the Civil War, and soon he fled with Gwin.

This is merely the bare bones of this fascinating story and omits the many interesting characters and incidents. Quinn evokes John C. Fremont and the founding of the state, the social environment of Gold Rush San Francisco, vigilantes and crusading newspaper editors, William Tecumseh Sherman (then a cynical San Francisco banker), the origins of the transcontinental railroad, Stephen Douglas and the slavery fight in the Senate.

Greg Mitchell, the author of "The Campaign of the Century: Upton Sinclair's Race for Governor of California and the Birth of Media Politics," wrote this for The Washington Post.

WHAT THEY'RE READING

• Angel Luis Jaime y Baró, chairman of the Rioja wine regulatory board, is reading "Breve Historia de España" by Fernando García de Cortázar and José Manuel González Vega.

"I was interested in a different focus on the history of my nation to better understand the circumstances that led from a mixture of different peoples to our current state of semi-autonomous regions." (Al Goodman, IHT)

CHESS

By Robert Byrne

YASSER SEIRAWAN beat Loek Van Wely in the traditional Hoogovens International Tournament.

The system of letting a huddling Queen's Indian Defense drift into a Nimzoindian Defense with $4 \cdot Nc3 Bb4$ has been preferred by Seirawan when he has White.

In a game against Seirawan in Buenos Aires two years ago, Pablo Zarnicki tried to pressure the white center with $6 \cdot Nc6$ and was smashed after $7 \cdot a3 Bb5$ $8 \cdot O-O$ $Bc3$ $9 \cdot d5$ $Bc5$ $10 \cdot d6$ $Qc7$ $11 \cdot g3$ $Bd6$ $12 \cdot Bg2$ $d3$ $Rd6$ $Qd6$ $14 \cdot Rd1$ $Qc7$ $15 \cdot Bf4$ $Qb7$ $16 \cdot Ne5$ $Bd7$ $17 \cdot Rd7$ $Nd7$ $Bc6$ $Qa6$ $19 \cdot Nd7$.

But now, with Seirawan playing Black, he comes up with a vital improvement: $6 \cdot Bb7$!, so that after $7 \cdot a3 Bb5$!, the aggressive $8 \cdot O-O$ would be dubious because $8 \cdot Bc3$ $9 \cdot Nc6$ $10 \cdot d5$ $Na5$ $11 \cdot Qa2$ $Qc7$ sticks White with doubled c pawns.

Van Wely gobbed a pawn with $9 \cdot cb2$ and after $9 \cdot Nc5$ $10 \cdot Qc2$ $Bd4$! $11 \cdot Qd1$ $Bc3$ $12 \cdot Bc2$, Seirawan had excellent positional compensation.

So the Dutchman tried $15 \cdot Qd7$, but Seirawan hit him with another killing combination:

15...Qb2 $16 \cdot Rd1$ $Nb3$! $17 \cdot Qe4$ $Qc3$ $18 \cdot Nd2$ $Nd2$ $19 \cdot Rd2$ $Qd1$ $20 \cdot Rd1$ $Qc2$ $21 \cdot Rd2$ $Qc1$ $22 \cdot Rd1$ $Qd1$! $23 \cdot Rd1$ $Nf2$ $24 \cdot Kc2$ $Nc4$.

Thus, after $25 \cdot Bf8$ ($25 \cdot Bg7$ loses even more material to $25 \cdot Rf8$ $26 \cdot Be4$ $d5$! $27 \cdot cd$ ed $28 \cdot Bd5$ $Rac8$ $29 \cdot Kd3$ $Rc7$) $Rf8$.

Seirawan had won a decisive pawn and kept solid positional advantage.

After $44 \cdot Ne4$, Van Wely gave up rather than waste his time on $45 \cdot Kb4$ $h3$ $46 \cdot Bd1$ $Nc2$ followed by the promotion of the h pawn.

Van Wely should have cleared off one potential attacker with $13 \cdot Bf6$! His alternative, $13 \cdot g3?$, permitted Seirawan to attack with $13 \cdot Ng4$, with the nasty threat of $14 \cdot Nd3$ $15 \cdot ed$ $Qf2$ mate.

On $14 \cdot Qd4$ $O-O$!, Van Wely could not pursue his development with $15 \cdot Bg2$ because $15 \cdot e5$! $16 \cdot Ne5$ $Bg2$ $17 \cdot Ng4$ $Bh1$ $18 \cdot f3$ $Ne5$ $19 \cdot Qb6$ ab $20 \cdot Bd2$ $Bg2$ $21 \cdot Nf2$ $Rf8$ loses too much material.

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Ex-Leader Of Mexico Surfaces in New York

Reuters

LOS ANGELES — The trial lawyer F. Lee Bailey began his cross-examination of a key detective in the O. J. Simpson trial on Monday after telling the judge he would prove that the officer had framed Mr. Simpson by planting a bloody glove on his estate.

Mr. Bailey said that Mr. Simpson's lawyers had far more evidence against Mark Fuhrman to prove the detective's guilt in framing Mr. Simpson than the prosecution had to prove Mr. Simpson's guilt in the murders of his ex-wife and her friend.

Mr. Bailey, in seeking to broaden the scope of his cross-examination, contended before Judge Lance A. Ito that Mr.

Fuhrman had planted not guilty in the murders. Mr. Simpson is black, Mr. Fuhrman is white.

Mr. Bailey wanted to be able to use statements made by Mr.

Fuhrman to police psychiatrists in 1983 when he applied for stress disability.

In those statements, Mr. Fuhrman allegedly spoke of his hatred of blacks and Hispanics, said he had beaten up suspects and had become a "wild man" while battling street gangs in inner-city neighborhoods.

Mr. Bailey said he wanted to question Mr. Fuhrman on that point because he wanted to know if Mr. Fuhrman had been "cured" of his racial bias. But Judge Ito denied the defense motion to go into Mr. Fuhrman's 1983 records.

He suggested that Mr. Fuhrman had planted the glove because he was being kicked off "the biggest murder case in the history of this state" and wanted

to review the case once more.

Meanwhile, acting Foreign Secretary Tomas Padilla of the Philippines has joined calls for Singapore to delay the execution of a Filipino maid accused of murder.

Flor Contemplacion, a mother of four, has been sentenced to hang for the May 1991 deaths of another Filipino maid, Della Maga, and a 4-year-old Singaporean boy.

A senior official of the Department of Foreign Affairs, who requested anonymity, said that in exchange for Mrs. Contemplacion's release, Manila had proposed pardoning a Singaporean, Cheong Sam Heung, now serving a life sentence in the Philippines for piracy.

In a television interview on Sunday in Copenhagen, Mr.

Ramos said he had written twice to Singapore's president, most recently on Saturday. He said he was not asking Singapore to bend the rules "just asking for a fresh opportunity to review the case once more."

With national elections only two months away, politicians have seized upon the case as an example of the abuse and mistreatment they say is faced by hundreds of thousands of Filipinos who must leave the country to find work.

On Sunday, Conrado Maga, the widower of Mrs. Maga, agreed to exhume his wife's body as part of a re-investigation. He and Mrs. Contemplacion's husband, Efren, urged Singapore authorities to delay the execution until new evidence could be evaluated.

Earlier, under questioning by the prosecutor, Marcia Clark, Mr. Fuhrman told her in 1983 that he had found the bloody glove on a narrow path at the rear of Mr. Simpson's estate.

He said that he and three other detectives had gone to the estate on the morning of June 13, 1994, the day after the murder.

Mr. Fuhrman said he talked with Mr. Simpson's house guest, Brian (Kato) Kaelin, who told him he had heard a thump on the outside wall of his room at about 10:45 P.M. the previous night. Later, Mr. Fuhrman said, he walked along a dark, narrow walkway at the back of the estate to see what might have caused the thump.

Mr. Fuhrman said that as he approached Mr. Kaelin's wall, he saw a dark object by the glow of his flashlight.

"It appeared a dark leather glove," he said. "It appeared to be somewhat moist or sticky."

Simpson Lawyer Vows to Prove Frame-Up

Fuhrman to police psychiatrists in 1983 when he applied for stress disability.

The attorney said the records showed that psychiatrists had concluded in 1983 that Mr. Fuhrman's feelings about race were incurable and that there was no way he could continue to be an effective police officer.

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"Moroccan teachers get special training at the Los Angeles Braille Institute"

"A winning idea in KLM's Bridging the World contest"



Frame-Up

Ex-Leader Is Seized In Nigeria Coup Plot

Reuters

LAGOS — General Olusegun Obasanjo, the only Nigerian military ruler to have voluntarily handed over power to elected civilians, was arrested Monday, his side said.

"General Obasanjo was picked up this morning by security men," said his personal assistant, Ayo Adewale.

The arrest followed allegation of a coup conspiracy that the military government of General Sani Abacha had been masterminded by civilians and officers.

Asked if the arrest of General Obasanjo was in connection with the alleged plot, Mr. Adewale replied: "They say the arrest is political."

He said General Obasanjo's passport was seized Sunday night by security men when he

arrived home from a trip that took him to Britain and Denmark.

On Friday, the chief of the defense staff, Major General Abdulsalam Abubakar, said at a news conference that 29 people had been arrested in connection with a plot to topple General Abacha's government on March 1.

Last Thursday, a retired general, Shehu Musa Yar'Adua, General Obasanjo's deputy in the military government that ruled Nigeria from 1976 until it was arrested in Abuja.

General Yar'Adua is a member of a government-organized constitutional conference, where he championed a motion that General Abacha should hand over power to elected civilians by next Jan. 1.

ARGENTINA: Navy Officer Opens a Chilling Window Onto a Nation's Vicious War Against Its Own

Continued from Page 1

repeat because I am convinced that I was acting under orders and that we were fighting a war."

Mr. Scilingo's disclosure has reopened a bitter debate here over the dirty war, in which more than 4,000 people were killed and 10,000 others disappeared from 1976 to 1983, according to an official government inquiry.

Mr. Scilingo said he was telling his story because of what he called the navy's indifference to the plight of the rank and file who carried out the orders to torture and kill prisoners. He said he was so tormented by the memory of his two death flights that he could not sleep at night without taking sleeping pills or drinking heavily.

"I'm not confessing to clear my conscience," he said. "I'm talking because I feel like the navy has abandoned us, left us to the wolves, the very ones who were loyal and followed orders."

He said that after his first flight, in

which he slipped and almost fell through the portal from which he was throwing people, he became so distraught that he confessed his actions to a military priest, who absolved him saying the killings "had to be done to separate the wheat from the chaff."

"There were men and women, and I had no idea who they were or what they had done," Mr. Scilingo said in the interview. "I was following orders. I did not get too close to the prisoners, and they had no idea what was going to happen to them."

But he said he had a slight change of heart during the first mission, after a noncommissioned officer, who had not been informed of what the mission entailed, began to express reservations about dumping people into the ocean.

"I reached over to try to comfort him, and I slipped and nearly fell through the door," Mr. Scilingo said. "That's when it first hit me exactly what we were doing. We were killing human beings. But still we continued."

Asked to describe the second mission, in which he said he dumped 17 people into the ocean, Mr. Scilingo said he could no longer discuss the details because he was about to break down.

"I have spent many nights sleeping in the plazas of Buenos Aires with a bottle of wine, trying to forget," he said. "I have ruined my life."

He said senior military officers had told participants in the flights that the church hierarchy sanctioned the missions as "a Christian form of death."

Outrage over Mr. Scilingo's disclosures was so strong here that the Roman Catholic Church, which in the past has been reluctant to talk about the dirty war, publicly denounced the torture and killings.

Speaking on behalf of Catholic bishops, Bishop Emilio Bianchi di Carcano said no Christian could condone the killings committed by Argentina's former military rulers. He denied that the church had ever been consulted about the death flights.

Bishop Bianchi di Carcano said that the bishops had written to the military asking for information about the fate of political prisoners, but that the generals had never offered a clear reply.

President Carlos Saúl Menem, who granted broad pardons to military officers and others accused of human rights abuses during the period, called Mr. Scilingo a "criminal" and ordered the navy to strip the former officer of his rank because of a conviction for fraud in a car-theft case in 1991.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Menem, a former dissident who was imprisoned for five years by the military, defended his decision to issue the pardons, saying it was necessary for the country to move forward and to stop the military discontent that led to three barracks uprisings in the 1980s and in 1990.

But human rights groups and families of victims criticized the president, saying that for political reasons he was halting the first detailed confirmation of what had long been

charged: that the military had disposed of victims at sea and that the Catholic church had sanctioned its actions.

The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, who represents the families of victims, held a large protest in central Buenos Aires on Thursday and demanded that the church "end its silence on what it knows about the dirty war" and that it release a list of priests who cooperated with the military.

"The military first threw our children into the river alive, their feet trapped inside a bucket of cement," said Hebe de Bonafini, the group's director. "But the corpses began to wash ashore, so they decided to start dumping them in the open ocean. The church knew exactly what was going on and did nothing to stop it."

Captain Hector Cesari, a spokesman for the navy, said no interviews would be given about Mr. Scilingo because he was no longer associated with the military after being stripped of his rank.

FISH: EU Breaks Contacts With Canada Over Seizure

Continued from Page 1

"We would all have some sympathy with the emotions that stir in the breasts of those Canadians who see to defend what they deem as their legitimate interests as far as fishing is concerned," the minister, Michael Jack, told Parliament.

The immediate effect of the EU decision was to cancel a two-day meeting of senior Foreign Ministry officials from Canada, France, Germany and Spain, which was begin in Paris on Tuesday. Canada described the move as "counterproductive."

Both the Union and Canada have endorsed a 1994 decision by the intergovernmental

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization to limit the total Greenland halibut catch to 27,000 tons a year, but are divided over sharing the catch.

The Union, whose fleet caught more than 40,000 tons of halibut last year, has refused to recognize a quota of 3,400 tons set by the fisheries organization on Feb. 1.

Canadian officials in Brussels have suggested a compromise to raise the Union quota to more than 11,000 tons and increase monitoring of vessels in the region, but EU officials insisted they would make no agreement while the Spanish boat was being held.

Continued from Page 1

Clinton believes the United States and the Russians must agree to certain new missile defense technologies — even if aimed at short-range missiles. The Senate majority leader, Bob Dole, Republican of Kansas, believes no negotiations are warranted.

"A lot of Republicans believe the ABM Treaty is a relic of the Cold War that is no longer in the interests of either the United States or Russia," said Senator John Kyl of Arizona. He has been designated by Mr. Dole to press the Republican case against the administration. "It

is not more moral to leave yourself open to attack than to be able to defend yourself."

Pentagon officials recently told Deputy Defense Minister Andrei Kokoshin of Russia that the two sides must come to an agreement soon because of the growing political pressure from Republicans.

"My worry is it risks the ABM Treaty," Deputy Defense Secretary John M. Deutch said in a recent interview.

Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov of Russia said Friday that concluding the ABM negotiations would be the No. 2 item on his country's agenda in a possible meeting this spring between

Mr. Clinton and President Boris N. Yeltsin.

But Mr. Vorontsov warned that if Washington goes ahead with a robust missile defense program in the absence of an agreement, Russia would "find the resources" to develop a matching system, with destabilizing consequences.

The Clinton administration believes the ABM Treaty is the linchpin to its arms control strategy.

Last week, the national security adviser, W. Anthony Lake, told Mr. Dole and 10 other Republican senators that without the security of an ABM Treaty, the Russians would abandon their program to destroy their strategic nuclear weapons as called for under the START-1 and START-2 treaties.

Mr. Dole called the meeting to press the Republicans' demand for a halt to the talks until they are satisfied with the U.S. negotiating posture.

The result was disagreement and the exchange of letters — in which Mr. Clinton pledged to continue the negotiations and Mr. Dole promised to head them off.

The cornerstone of U.S. security policy should not be a Cold War era treaty but a defense posture that responds to the threats of the 21st century," Mr. Dole wrote. "Such a defense posture must include effective missile defenses. Continued failure by your administration to take our deep concerns into account will force us to utilize all available legislative options."

MOMENT: Labor Party Reform

Continued from Page 1

ference to override the party leadership.

At a news conference, a beaming Mr. Blair insisted he was pleased by the tenor of the long debate and by its outcome.

"This is a defining moment in my party's history," he said. "I want the public to see the change we have made, to know it, to believe in it and to see more of the party that we have been becoming."

Today's Labor Party, he said, was "a modern, progressive, left-of-center party facing a new century with clarity and conviction." He added: "We are the people's party. We should address the people's agenda. We should speak the people's language."

To the irritation of some union leaders, the new language does not contain a commitment to full employment, but instead speaks in general terms of upholding the opportunity for all to work and prosper."

The new version speaks instead of creating "a community in which power, wealth and opportunity are in the hands of the many, not the few" and an economy in which "the enterprise of the market and the rigor of competition are joined with the forces of partnership and cooperation."

membership cards. To some it is a central tenet in a literal and unshakable dogma, but to others it is largely symbolic, a touchstone of faith in the socially just world of a government-directed economy.

In 1959, following three electoral defeats, the party leader Hugh Gaitskell tried to scrap Clause Four, but was rebuffed. Since then, leaders ranging from Harold Wilson to Neil Kinnock and John Smith were reluctant to try. Mr. Wilson said it was like the Bible — valuable even if not to be taken literally.

The old version read: "To secure for the workers by hand or by brain the full fruits of their industry and the most equitable distribution thereof that may be possible upon the basis of the common ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange..."

The new version speaks instead of creating "a community in which power, wealth and opportunity are in the hands of the many, not the few" and an economy in which "the enterprise of the market and the rigor of competition are joined with the forces of partnership and cooperation."

Italy Leader to Visit Turkey

ROME — President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro of Italy will make a three-day state visit to Turkey beginning next Monday, his office announced.

FED: Central Bankers Are Reluctant to Raise Rates

Continued from Page 1

Greenspan's congressional testimony. Federal Reserve officials should not "ignore what we think is going on in the economy and continue to indicate we're on a path of tightening simply because some external factor is soft," he said.

Federal Reserve officials are reluctant to respond to short-term problems like the dollar, in part because interest rate changes can take nine months or more to affect the economy. Federal Reserve officials make policy changes based on their forecasts of the economy's future health.

"I think that we all recognize that monetary policy acts with a lag, and we have to build some of that into our thinking," said Susan M. Phillips, another Federal Reserve Board governor.

"Recognizing that we've got these lags, I think there's still a sense that there are more of these effects in the pipeline."

From interest rate increases over the last year.

To be sure, the Federal Reserve's calculations could change in a hurry should there be an unexpected shift in the economy's fortunes or a plunge in financial markets. Janet L. Yellen, another Federal Reserve governor, was particularly cautious.

"We've seen some signs of a moderation of growth, but it's too soon to make a call on what's happening and the employment reports remain confusing," she said.

The bond and stock markets interpreted Friday's report of falling unemployment by concentrating on underlying signs of an economic slowdown and then rallying strongly.

Federal Reserve officials also said they looked at the details of the Friday's unemployment report and found few signs in them of inflation pressures.

The central bank's reluctance

to continue raising interest rates is proving difficult for Federal Reserve officials to explain to financial markets and politicians alike.

The Federal Reserve raised rates repeatedly last year even as inflation was falling. That angered Main Street but delighted inflation-wary investors on Wall Street.

Now Federal Reserve officials are inclined to hold rates steady, and perhaps reduce them eventually, even as inflation may rise this spring. That may not please Wall Street but is also unlikely to mollify Main Street businesses, like car manufacturers who are continuing to lose sales because of rising interest rates on car loans.

The seven governors decide interest-rate policy together with the presidents of five of the 12 Federal Reserve regional banks. They meet eight times a year; the next meeting is scheduled for March 28.

MAYOR: Baltic Port City Is Hunting for Leadership

Continued from Page 1

the East. The leader of the Christian Social Union, Edmund Stoiber, asserted recently that the scale of aid being sent eastward was creating "enormous anger" in the West.

"Unfortunately," Mr. Stoiber said, "people in the East seem only half-aware that these massive transfers are being made through sacrifices and additional burdens borne by taxpayers in the West."

In a few Eastern cities, like Dresden, Leipzig, and Potsdam, the largesse has done its job and can probably be reduced without disastrous results. But in most of East Germany, cuts may be devastating.

Rostock's next mayor will have a seven-year term, and the challenges are so great that a national advertising campaign was deemed necessary to find someone willing to face them.

When the application period ended in late February, 31 people had expressed interest.

Most were Westerners.

Rostock is hardly the only

community in East Germany that fears for its economic future. The Schiller, and Nietzsche, is in virtual bankruptcy. City officials there have been forced to accept a controller from West Germany, without whose approval they cannot spend a cent. He has proved so parsimonious that his services have also been engaged by two other nearby towns, Meissen and Hofenbach, which are also in financial collapse.

Even Berlin, which before reunification had lived off enormous federal subsidies that are now being slashed, is threatened with what one city councilor recently called "financial catastrophe." But there are reasonable grounds for optimism if only the Easterners can adjust to their new circumstances.

The European Union has chosen Weimar to be the "cultural capital of Europe" in 1999, giving it a chance to stage lucrative public events. Berlin remains one of the most vibrant cities, although its debt burden in 1998 will be three times what it was in 1991. And Rostock is beginning to realize its potential as a hub of Baltic trade and tourism.

Rostock's shopping district, a handsome row of 18th-century buildings, is being spruced up for the city's 777th anniversary this year. The university, which was founded in 1419, is attracting students from across Germany. Ferry service now connects the city to Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Lithuania and Latvia. Hotels are being built along the pristine beaches outside of town, and local shipyards have landed lucrative contracts.

Key Kobe Train Line Reopens After Quake

The Associated Press

TOKYO — A major commuter train line resumed service Monday on a key link in Kobe, almost two months after an earthquake devastated the city. Hankyu Electric Railway Co. resumed operations along a 3.1-kilometer (1.9-mile) stretch that connects lines operated by two other companies serving surrounding areas. The reopened portion begins at Sannomiya, a station complex and shopping mall that collapsed in the Jan. 17 earthquake.



81 other ideas awarded
The twelve winning entries show the level of commitment and involvement which many people have with the plight of others. This sharing and caring was very much a feature of all the entries and made the selection of the best ideas a very difficult task indeed.
KLM is therefore pleased to offer tickets to 81 runners-up so that many more of these moving ideas for bridging the world can be turned into reality.
A world of thanks
KLM would like to thank all the many people who took the time to put down their ideas on paper and who have helped make this contest such a memorable and moving experience. It shows that even in today's world of global communications and travel, there are still many bridges that have to be built.

The Reliable Airline **KLM**
75 years



Moore/Thomas

Clockwise from top left: Freud's sweater and pleated skirt; McQueen working on tartan suit; Red or Dead's vinyl corset suit; Storey's Edith Sitwell look; Chalayan's techno-tailoring; Knightly's sweater, shirt and pants.

A New Revolution, From the Children of the Flower Children

By Suzy Menkes
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — Their mothers were hippies — all ethnic layers, love beads and hair run wild. But now the children of the flower children are creating their own fashion revolution.

The twentysomething generation is swinging London fashion in a new direction: neat and tidy clothes with the focus on sharp tailoring in fresh pastel colors. A childhood yearning for an immaculate, ordered world seems to have come out in clothes that are the antithesis of the wild and wacky looks associated with British street style.

At Bella Freud, there were trim trifly hats topping baby-blue coats and cute knitted dresses with scalloped hems — both with the silhouette of a well-behaved schoolgirl. Or there was the clotted-cream-and-white freshness of Nicholas Knightly's simple separates, neatly cut to shadow a slight body.

"This is a very personal collection — I wanted to show the rape of Scotland in the Jacobite

tween Milan and Paris, has sprung back to life. The significance is that the new generation of young designers is combining craft with creativity, so that the return to light-handed tailoring has some substance in cut and fit. Put it another way: The clothes are wearable and well-behaved instead of wild and weird.

Knights' soft and subtle bias cutting (such as a shirt collar with a cowl front) was not well-served by the big runway, but his line has been a sell-out for spring at Saks Fifth Avenue, according to its fashion director, Nicole Fischels.

"I've had more fun from one hour in London than a week in Milan," she said after the Red or Dead show that had witty takes on kipper ties (giant size at hips or backbone), funky skewers with technicolor moon boots and the craze for plastic represented by shiny vinyl "Avenging" outfit and brief skirts in nursery shower-curtain prints.

Saks, like other American stores and the Japanese buyers who have pushed show attendance up by 10 to 15 percent this season, looks for three things out of London: trends at the sharp end, especially in the accessories that dominated the two-tier tented exhibition at London's Natural History Museum; dressy evening wear, and a poetic

eccentricity that is uniquely British.

There was poetry in the brooding sadness of Sonja Nutall's long dark knits and somber corduroy tailoring, shafted with sunstone yellow and with the verse of Edith Sitwell on the sound track. Helen Storey also took Sitwell as her muse and unfolded, in a subway tunnel, tangerine velvet coats, mixed with nylon, vinyl and hirsute fur. That made a long fox-tailed train on a slender evening dress, for a sly and sensual effect.

Since the British psyche is steeped in the past, the 1950s couture parade sent out in Paris by the British designer John Galliano last season provides a rich seam to plunder. If you want a take on a previous pastiche, Edina Ronay did hers with wit, using Mick Jagger's statuesque wife, Jerry Hall, to camp up couture, with a poodle on a leash, a gleaming Bentley on the runway and skirts either hobbling the knees or as swishing prom dresses.

Empress Sissie evocogown with flower bouquets in their bustles were sent out by Tomasz Starzewski, who went back to his Polish roots and had a touch of pastel mohair.

Nicole Farhi's show Monday was strong on coats, delicious in caramel boucle-topping cream knits. Her tailoring came close

to the body but, as elsewhere, fun with folklore patterns, cossack hats, and vivid colors, not least for the acid-bright conifers of his backdrop.

London stores are backing British. Harvey Nichols in Knightsbridge filled its windows with Barbie doll wardrobes of young British designers and supported a group show that kicked off the season. It included Comme's collars, bustiers and corset-belts abstracted from classic fair Isle knit and the ultimate wacky accessory: the hula-shaped backpack.

Liberty of Regent Street presented Pearce Fliona, who showed retro-tailoring (think ladylike purses and seamed hose). Cocktail suits with a kick of fabric on peplum-backed jackets and fishtail skirts.

Sportswear designers were less comfortable with retro-chic, with Paul Costelloe grafting a couture take onto a collection that was better when it stuck to dried-mud tweeds, oatmeal knit, leather flying jackets and just a touch of pastel mohair.

The satin bucket bag with flowered lid (by the London purse designer Lulu Guinness) signaled a fresh spirit at Zandra Rhodes, where her signature chiffons had graphic Matisse-inspired prints and were scissored into simpler shapes.

Jean Muir, giving a stroll

about private view in her show room, had new shapes, like a bubble dress under a three-quarter coat and a fluted skirt, the shape of an upturned champagne glass. They refreshed her tailoring.

What had been gained and lost now that avant-garde British designers are making clothes polite rather than funky? Visitors to the show, who included Elin Saltzman, scouting for Henri Bendel in New York and buying teams from Barneys and Charvari, all stressed that they look to London for the whimsical rather than the conventional.

But Silver, formerly with the British retailing giant Marks & Spencer, is determined to prove that for London fashion to count on the international circuit, it also has to sell.

His first step was to sell the show to the sponsors — then to target international buyers.

"And I don't want to be Muzsolini, but I want the show hero to run on time," he said. That was a reference to a storm that has broken in Paris fashion over the scheduling of the shows for the French ready-to-wear season that opens on Tuesday.

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Herald Tribune
THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

Actresses Who Look Real and Get the Guy: Is This a Trend?

By Claudia Shear
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — "Muriel's Wedding" from Australia, "Mina Tannenbaum" from France and "Circle of Friends," which is set in Ireland, share a shocking similarity. The protagonists in these three films

young women who, according to Hollywood standards and practices, are not beautiful.

Is this a new wave of actresses and of stories about ordinary girls? Or just a coincidence? As an actress who is not particularly beautiful, delightfully girlish or waifishly thin (I have had years of disappointment, people smiling ruefully while they pushed

my picture and resume back across the desk), I'm rooting heavily for the former.

Perhaps such films reflect a need to bring normal-looking women to the screen when the ideal for female beauty actually becomes impossible to meet.

"Georgy Girl," with Lynn Redgrave as the chubby duckling came along in 1966, when the look of the moment was that of dazed longing from the anemoine-lashed eyes of Twiggy.

Now, along with the ubiquitous posters of Kate Moss (which seem to say "I'm so thin my clothes are falling off, and I can't quite focus my eyes"), these three films have emerged.

And I, for one, am grateful.

Muriel (played by Toni Col-

lette), of "Muriel's Wedding," lives in Porpoise Spit, Australia — the kind of place that gives backwater a bad name.

Her friends are three vicious Heathers who reject her utterly (and tell her so, graphically) because she is big, overweight, plain and the unkindest cut, uncool.

Benny (Minnie Driver) is the strapping, sensible "beef to her heels" young Irish girl in "Circle of Friends." Benny stoically absorbs callous comments — a suitor tells her, "There aren't many who would have you, you know, Benny" — as she struggles with her beauty, her loving but fearfully conventional family and the issue of sex versus sin.

Mina (Romane Bohringer) in

"Mina Tannenbaum" is actually quite lovely, but even she feels ugly as a teenager and remains racked with shyness and self-doubt when she becomes a young woman painter. Her best friend, Ethel (Elisa Zylberstein) is plump as a young girl in dance class and still lumpy in her teens as she and Mina brave Paris in grotesque '70s fashions.

To look into the faces of these young women and see their story is a revelation. The view from here is a surprise. The shy Benny in "Circle of Friends," on her first day at college in Dublin, watches as her blonde bombshell friend flirts with easy assurance.

Muriel experiences a moment of fabulous popularity when she wins a talent show at a beach resort, proudly sausaged into a white satin jumpsuit and singing an ABBA song.

She is the real victory for them in realizing that maybe they did not want enough.

All three of the filmmakers involved — the French director Martine Dugowson, the Australian P. J. Hogan and the Irish Paul O'Connor — have opted not for the distance of glamour, the mystery of unattainable beauty, but for the open, simpler faces of people like their mothers or sisters. Faces not so different from our own.

There is a line from a Stephen Sondheim song that says "Pretty is what changes, what the eye arranges is what is beautiful." As we watch Muriel and Benny and Ethel finding the destiny allotted to them, we begin to arrange their faces in our minds.

Perhaps just a bit before they do, perhaps a bit after, we can see that they, too, are beautiful.

Claudia Shear's book "Blown Sideways Through Life," based on her one-woman show about the jobs she took while trying to succeed as an actress, will be published this month. She wrote this for The New York Times.

On April 22nd, the IHT will publish a Special Report on

ARTS & ANTIQUES

Among the topics to be covered are:

- Unstoppable art deco.
- The impact of wealthy collectors in India and Asia.
- A new trend toward single-artist museums.
- Asia — preserving cultural heritage vs. tourism revenue.
- Links between children's drawings and works of great art.

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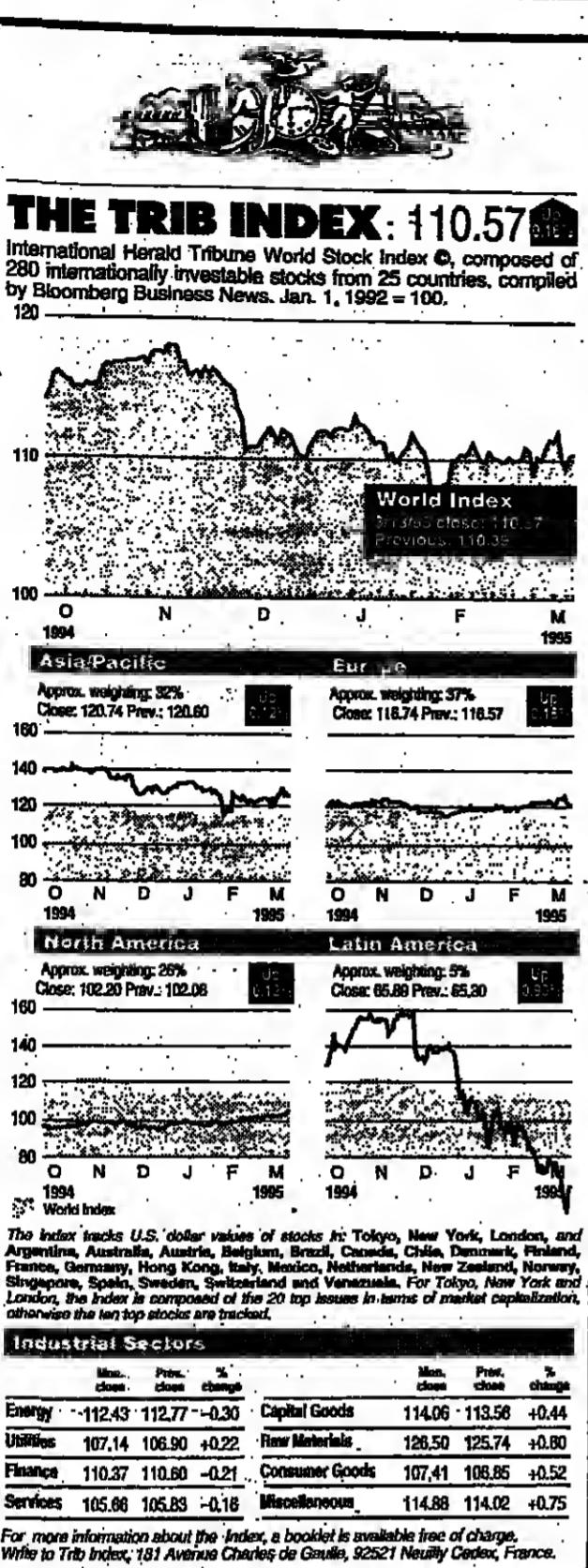
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The index tracks U.S. dollar values of stocks in Tokyo, New York, London, and Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Mexico, Norway, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Venezuela. For Tokyo, New York and London, the index is composed of the top 200 issues in terms of market capitalization, otherwise the top 100 stocks are tracked.

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© International Herald Tribune

Thinking Ahead / Commentary

U.S. Should Stop Undermining WTO

By Reginald Dale
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton's seemingly limitless capacity for bungling senior appointments has long been one of his most notorious faults. Unfortunately, for the rest of the world, it is not just jobs in Washington that are at stake.

Last year Mr. Clinton failed abysmally to secure dynamic new leadership for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the industrial countries' policy coordination club in Paris.

Now Washington is making a mess of filling a much more powerful post — director-general of the new World Trade Organization in Geneva — which is arguably the world's most important job.

The WTO's delicate task is to supervise and strengthen the international trading system during the dangerous transition from the post-war era to the global economy of the 21st century.

If it succeeds, it will play a bigger role in advancing world prosperity than any other international institution, and the country that has the greatest interest in the WTO's success is none other than the United States, the biggest and most open trading country.

Yet it is the United States that is now hardest at work undermining the authority of the WTO, and that of its future

head, by irresponsibly subverting the leadership selection process.

In an eerie replay of failed nominations at home, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, former Mexican president and the preferred U.S. candidate, turned out to be a major embarrassment.

Washington made matters worse by sticking with him for far too long after

his credibility went the way of the Mexican peso.

U.S. officials have made it obvious they do not like either of the two remaining candidates: the European Union's Renato Ruggiero and Kim Chulsoi of South Korea, who is backed by most of Asia. Instead of proposing an alternative, or a way out of the deadlock, they are sending bursts of conflicting signals to America's trading partners.

Shamefully, Washington has launched a shabby smear campaign against Mr. Ruggiero, just as it did against Jean-Claude Paye, the head of the OECD, last year. Mr. Ruggiero has been dubbed a protectionist and worse, a representative of an over-regulated economic system and a "bureaucrat," whatever that means in this context.

Mr. Ruggiero, who has been foreign

trade minister of Italy, is no more of a bureaucrat than the senior Washington officials who are blackening his name, none of whom, of course, is an elected politician.

The campaign against Mr. Ruggiero, like that against Mr. Paye, smacks of a disquieting kind of mindless anti-Europeanism that too often emanates from Mr. Clinton's Washington.

The United States, a State Department official reportedly said last week, wanted a candidate from outside the European Union to give the WTO more of a "world perspective," as if that were something no European could conceivably possess.

But if the WTO is to succeed, the United States and the European Union have to work together. That will be far more difficult if Washington keeps implying that Europeans are almost by definition inward-looking protectionists.

It is not just Europe that is angry. Washington has offended the South Koreans and other Asians by suggesting that Mr. Kim, while a decent fellow, comes from a country whose trading policies are unacceptable.

But time is now up. The longer the deadlock persists, the more damaging it will be for the WTO.

If the United States cannot make a constructive contribution, Washington should bow out and let the rest of the world settle the issue without the benefit of its dubious head-hunting skills.

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates

	U.S.	DM	Fr.	Li	DK	SF	Yen	CS	Peso	March 13
Amsterdam	1.597	2.115	4.115	22.025	1.303	1.307	1.307	1.307	1.307	1.307
Buenos Aires	2.225	2.225	2.225	2.225	2.225	2.225	2.225	2.225	2.225	2.225
Frankfurt	1.597	2.225	2.225	2.225	2.225	2.225	2.225	2.225	2.225	2.225
London (a)	1.597	2.225	2.225	2.225	2.225	2.225	2.225	2.225	2.225	2.225
Madrid	2.015	2.625	2.625	2.625	2.625	2.625	2.625	2.625	2.625	2.625
Milan	1.615	2.015	2.015	2.015	2.015	2.015	2.015	2.015	2.015	2.015
New York (a)	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597
Paris	1.595	1.595	1.595	1.595	1.595	1.595	1.595	1.595	1.595	1.595
Tokyo	1.615	1.615	1.615	1.615	1.615	1.615	1.615	1.615	1.615	1.615
Toronto	1.415	2.227	2.227	2.227	2.227	2.227	2.227	2.227	2.227	2.227
Zurich	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
1 ECU	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597
1 SDR	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597

Forward Rates

Currency	30-day	60-day	90-day	180-day	270-day	360-day	450-day	540-day	630-day	720-day
Swiss Franc	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597
Australian dollar	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597
British pound	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597
Canadian dollar	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597
French franc	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597
German mark	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597
Italian lira	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597
Japanese yen	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597
Swedish krona	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597
Swiss franc	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597
U.S. dollar	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597
Canadian dollar	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597
British pound	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597
Swiss franc	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597
U.S. dollar	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597	1.597

Sources: ING Bank (Amsterdam); Indonesia Bank (Bali); Banca Commerciale Italiana (Milan); Agence France-Presse (Paris); Bank of Tokyo (Tokyo); Royal Bank of Canada (Toronto); IMF (SDR). Other data from Bloomberg, Reuters and AP.

Right Man for the World Bank?
Wolfensohn Receives High Marks as U.S. Nominee

By Peter Truell
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — In today's Wall Street of 12-hour days and 7-day weeks, James D. Wolfensohn is probably as close as the modern investment professional can get to being a Renaissance man.

A renowned international financier, Mr. Wolfensohn has for 14 years successfully forged his own company, James D. Wolfensohn Inc., into an investment powerhouse that competes with giant firms like Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Salomon Brothers, while doing annual business of \$8 billion to \$10 billion.

An accomplished cellist, committed philanthropist and student of development and environmental issues, Mr. Wolfensohn also rebuilt Carnegie Hall, where he is board chairman emeritus, and has headed the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington for the last five years.

President Bill Clinton has nominated the charismatic and feisty Mr. Wolfensohn, 61, to be the next president of the World Bank.

Mr. Wolfensohn, who has involved himself with environmental and development issues for 30 years, was the favored candidate of Vice President Al Gore to succeed Lewis Preston, who asked to retire early from the World Bank after he was diagnosed as having cancer.

The World Bank's directors are expected to vote on Mr. Wolfensohn's pro-

posed appointment within the next few days and, provided it is ratified, he will take over the World Bank this summer.

His anticipated arrival comes at a particularly challenging time in the development organization's history. Its clientele has never been more diverse and complex. It is seeking to aid the states of the former Soviet Union, to ensure that fast-

'He's a first-class person, intelligent, charitable and caring. He's always handled himself with class.'

Gedale Horowitz, senior managing director, Salomon Brothers Inc.

growing developing nations do not destroy themselves environmentally and socially in their rush for economic prosperity, and to halt the slide in the fortunes of the poorest people in the world, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

The 50-year-old organization, which makes \$17 billion in loans a year, has also recently been challenged by those who argue that its mission is over and that it has been insensitive to environmental concerns.

Those critics, grouped in the "50 Years

Is Enough" coalition, offered no immediate comment.

All those interviewed Sunday sang Mr. Wolfensohn's praises.

"Jim Wolfensohn is an unusual banker who brings a whole range of qualities that few in the financial community have," said Maurice Strong, chairman of the World Resources Institute and of the Earth Council, which headed the United Nations 1992 conference in Rio de Janeiro on environment and development. "He cares deeply about the issues of sustainable development and will be a strong leader for the World Bank at a critical stage in its history."

Mr. Strong, who is also president of Ontario Hydro, first met Mr. Wolfensohn when they worked together at a conference on the environment and the economy in Stockholm in 1972.

Mr. Strong, who is also president of the Business Council for Sustainable Development, the Population Council and a trustee of the Brookings Institution, with a long history of involvement in development and environmental issues.

Those socially progressive credentials

See BANK, Page 15

Alcatel Board Backs Its Chief
Overbilling Inquiry Leads To 2% Drop in Stock Price

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MARKET DIARY

Wall Street Holds Near Record Level

Bloomberg Business News

NEW YORK — U.S. stocks closed mixed on Monday one day after posting records as optimism about rising earnings and stable interest rates coaxed a drop in bank stocks and Walt Disney Co.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which surged 52.22 points or 1.31 percent to a re-

U.S. Stocks

cord of 4,035.61 on Friday, fell 10.38 points, to 4,025.23.

The yield on the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond dropped to 7.45 percent from 7.74 percent on Friday.

Almost 11 common stocks dropped for every 10 that rose on the Big Board, where volume dipped to 7.5 million shares down from 382.94 million on Friday.

"We're still in the midst of a reasonably strong economy, and there's a sense that there are strong corporate earnings ahead," said Alan Ackerman, analyst at Fahnestock & Co.

But the Standard & Poor's 500 Index rose to a new high for a second day, climbing 0.48 point, to 490.05, and the Nasdaq Composite Index, buoyed by gains for a number of high-tech stalwarts, inched up to close at 802.31.

"We are seeing what I would consider to be, under normal circumstances, extraordinary strength in bond and stock markets," said Alfred Kugel, strategist at Stein Roe & Farnham. He said the rises in securities prices were notable at a time the dollar was weak.

Deutsche Mark Stays Squarely in Spotlight

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — The dollar held roughly steady in a nervous European market on Monday but demand remained strong for the Deutsche mark, dealers said.

"We're still very much in a holding pattern as far as the dollar's concerned," said Stuart Thomson, economist at Nikko Europe in London. "But the

market's still not convinced that the dollar has bottomed."

The dollar managed to cling to support at 1.40 DM and after a brief slide below 90 yen it steadied against the Japanese currency as well.

The dollar closed at 1.4070 DM, down from 1.4125 DM on Friday, and it was quoted at 90.75 yen, down from 91.90.

Hans Tietmeyer, president of the Bundesbank, said at a meeting in Basel of central bank governors that the recovery of the dollar that started on Friday would continue. He said there

was no possibility of mark sales by central banks still kept the market edge, however. There were suspicions the Bank of Italy was checking rates earlier, when the lira weakened near its lows as nervousness persisted about the fate of the country's budget plans that are due for a vote in Parliament on Tuesday.

Against other currencies, the dollar was quoted at 1.1740 Swiss francs, down from 1.1797, and at 5.0020 French francs, down from 5.0455. The pound was quoted at \$1.5929, up from \$1.5740.

(Bloomberg, Reuters, AFX)

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Agence France Presse, March 13

Close Prev.

ASIA/PACIFIC

Slim Margins Temper Results At Cathay Pacific

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

HONG KONG — Cathay Pacific Airways said its net income rose 4 percent in 1994 as competition in the Asian airline market and inflation in Hong Kong cut into profit margins.

Chairman Peter Sutch said the airline earned \$2.39 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$309.2 million), compared with \$2.29 billion dollars in 1993, in a "very difficult year."

China Debating Bill to Reorganize Its Central Bank

Reuters

BEIJING — Parliament has begun discussion of China's first central bank law, which analysts said Monday marked a milestone in the modernization of China's financial system — although success will depend on implementation.

This is the Bundesbank law with Chinese characteristics," one Western economist said.

The bill on the People's Bank of China, submitted to the National People's Congress this weekend, is a result of more than five years of intensive drafting and re drafting as well as heated argument, economists said.

Under the draft, expected to be passed this week, the central bank would not engage in commercial or policy-related lending and would follow an independent monetary policy. The law effectively would end the previously ill-defined role of the bank, which required it to act as an organ of credit for China's burgeoning economy.

The head of the central bank could be appointed or dismissed only by the president, currently the head of the Communist Party, Jiang Zemin.

Toymaker 'Morphs' Into Top Ranks With Power Rangers, Japan's Bandai Gains on U.S. Giants

By Andrew Pollack
New York Times Service

"The key reasons for this weak result are familiar," Mr. Sutch said. "On the revenue side, overcapacity throughout the industry continued to depress yields while on the cost side, inflation in Hong Kong remained far higher than in the majority of markets in which our competitors are based."

Hong Kong's inflation rate has hovered between 8 percent and 11 percent in recent years.

Sales increased 13 percent to 27.22 billion dollars, from 24.01 billion dollars, but operating expenses also increased 13 percent, to 24.62 billion dollars. Staff costs rose 14 percent, to 6.18 billion dollars.

Net finance charges and the company's tax bill almost doubled. Finance charges were \$57-million dollars, compared with \$28 million dollars in 1993, while taxes cost Cathay Pacific \$60 million dollars, compared with \$28 million dollars.

But Mr. Sutch expressed "cautious optimism" for 1995 due to productivity gains and signs of economic recovery in its main markets.

Cathay Pacific, Hong Kong's main international airline, is controlled by the conglomerate Swire Pacific Ltd. (Bloomberg, AFP, AFX, Reuters)

TOKYO — At the New York toy fair in February 1993, a Japanese company with limited name recognition in the United States displayed a new line of action figures in a small showroom and struggled to get toy buyers to look.

"We had to go out in the hall and drag some of them in," Trish Stewart, marketing director for the company's American subsidiary, recalled.

The action figures, the Mighty Morphin Power Rangers, went on to become one of the greatest hits in American toy history. At the 1995 fair, the manufacturer, the Bandai Co., could not keep the crowds out of a showroom four times larger than the old one.

The phenomenal success of the Power Rangers provided an opportunity for Bandai, which has long been Japan's largest conventional toy company but which had so little success in the United States that its American subsidiary seemed to outsiders to be on the verge of disintegrating a few years ago.

Now, like the toys it makes, Bandai has a chance to transform or "morph" into a major player in the American and European markets.

Makoto Yamashina, the company's aggressive president, aims to have Bandai's sales, about \$2.4 billion in the current year, surpass those of the American giants Mattel Inc. (\$3.2 billion in 1994 revenue) and Hasbro Inc. (\$2.7 billion) by the year 2000.

That would make Bandai the largest conventional toy company in the world and No. 3 overall behind video-game kings Nintendo Co. and Sega Enterprises Co., which expect sales of about \$4.3 billion and \$3.9 billion, respectively, in the fiscal year ending this month.

To do that, Bandai plans to ride the wave created by Japan's fertile comic-book and cartoon industries, whose products are gradually catching on around the world. This fall, at least two Japanese children's programs will debut on American television. Bandai, which specializes in character-based toys, will have the licenses for all three.

The most highly anticipated of the new programs is "Sailor Moon," a cartoon series about a long-legged, clumsy, blonde junior high school girl who transforms into a heroine with magical powers.

ers. A big hit in Japan for two years, the Sailor Moon character has also done well in France, Spain and Hong Kong.

Bandai is also plunging into the multimedia and video-game business in partnership with Apple Computer Inc. In December, Bandai said it would make and sell the Pippin Power Player, a \$300 scaled-down version of Apple's Macintosh computer that will plug into a television set and play games and educational programs stored on compact disks.

"We need another \$2 billion-to-\$3 billion business," Mr. Yamashina said about the move into multimedia.

Bandai plans to ride the wave created by Japan's comic-book and cartoon industries, whose products are gradually catching on around the world.

But there are numerous risks ahead. Unlike more stable toys like Mattel's Barbie doll, Bandai's character toys can rise and fall sharply with the unpredictable shifts in moods among fickle youngsters.

Coleco Industries, whose Cabbage Patch dolls were as popular in their day as Power Rangers are now, went bankrupt when sales of the dolls declined and the company was left with huge inventories.

Last Christmas, American parents went frantic searching for scarce Power Ranger toys as Bandai struggled to meet demand. But now the shortages are abating.

Mr. Yamashina said he expects Power Ranger sales in the United States to rise to about \$400 million in 1995 from \$330 million in 1994 because new products have been introduced and because Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corp. will release a Power Ranger movie for the summer.

In Europe, he said, sales might hit \$150 million this year, compared with \$100 million in 1994.

But some analysts expect Power Ranger sales to slow. "I would say the second half of the year in the U.S. will show a very steep decline in Power Ranger merchandise," said Sean McGowan, toy analyst at Gerard Klauer Mattison & Co. in

New York, who was basing his judgment partly on the sensitive barometer provided by his 5-year-old. "He hasn't asked me for a Power Ranger toy since Christmas."

The video-game business is also treacherous. Mattel and Hasbro both have failed in video-game machines. Bandai has been trying, with mixed success, since it made imitations of the Atari Pong game in 1977.

Its latest hardware effort, the Playdin compact-disk read-only memory player, or CD-ROM, for toddlers that is sold in Japan, has been easily outsold by Sega's child computer, the Pico.

Already, Mr. Yamashina concedes, the Macintosh-based multimedia player, due in the fall, is behind schedule, making it difficult to get high volumes into the market in time for Christmas.

For the financial year that ends this month, Bandai expects to report sales of 220 billion yen (\$2.42 billion), up 22 percent from the previous year, and net income of \$110 million. In the previous year, Bandai had a loss of \$18.6 million, in part the result of pulling out of an unprofitable agreement to distribute Nintendo video-game cartridges in Europe.

Bandai's stock has fallen from a high of 5,040 yen a year ago to 3,230 yen on Monday. But Mr. Yamashina, who writes books about religion when he is not selling action figurines, is nothing if not ambitious. "He might make a mistake once again, but he will find the way," said Yoshiro Tsukuda, a Japanese toy wholesaler. "That is what he has done in the past."

Bandai was founded as a toy wholesaler in 1950 by Mr. Yamashina's father, Naoharu. The company name comes from part of a Chinese phrase meaning "things that are eternal."

Within a year Bandai began manufacturing its own toys, concentrating on cheap metal replicas of planes and cars, which were sold in the United States. "We called them \$1 toys," Mr. Yamashina said.

But after that good start, Bandai never had much success in the United States. Perhaps its biggest hit there before the Power Rangers was Gobots, vehicles that transformed into robots, which were sold by Tonka Toys in the mid-1980s.

But Bandai found the key to success in Japan, where it aggressively licensed characters from comics and television shows. Today, character merchandise — mainly toys but recently also clothing and candy and other goods — accounts for more than 80 percent of sales.

Investor's Asia

Hong Kong	Singapore	Tokyo
Hang Seng	Strata Times	Nikkei 225
10000	2000	2000
9000	2000	2000
8000	2000	2000
7000	2000	2000
6000	2000	2000
5000	2000	2000
4000	2000	2000
3000	2000	2000
2000	2000	2000
1000	2000	2000
0	2000	2000
O N D J F M	O N D J F M	O N D J F M
1994	1995	1994
Exchange	Index	Monday
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	Close
Singapore	Strata Times	Close
Sydney	All Ordinaries	Change
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	Prev.
Kuala Lumpur	Composite	%
Bangkok	SET	Close
Seoul	Composite Stock	Close
Taipei	Weighted Price	Close
Manila	PSE	Close
Jakarta	Stock Index	Close
New Zealand	NZSE-40	Close
Bombay	National Index	Close

Sources: Reuters, AFP

1994	1995	1994	1995
1000	1000	1000	1000
900	900	900	900
800	800	800	800
700	700	700	700
600	600	600	600
500	500	500	500
400	400	400	400
300	300	300	300
200	200	200	200
100	100	100	100
0	0	0	0

International Herald Tribune

- China said the number of companies that went bankrupt in the country last year more than doubled and will double again in 1995, to 3,000.
- PSA Peugeot Citroën SA's Dongfeng-Citroën Automobile Co. joint venture plans to invest 3.8 billion yuan (\$451 million) in its operation in the central city of Wuhan, the China Daily reported.
- Bangkok Land Co. was suspended Monday from trading at the Stock Exchange of Thailand following reports that it faced a \$44 million loss on two of its exchangeable convertible debentures.
- China's trade surplus hit \$4.46 billion in the first two months of the year, reversing a \$1.2 billion deficit in the like period last year.
- Kumagai Gumi Co., the Japanese construction company, said it lost 19 billion yen (\$209 million) on the sale of a hotel in Sydney and other overseas businesses.
- Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. will borrow \$250 million in the second half of this year to finance expansion.
- TNT Ltd. of Australia is planning to expand its global transport operations into Asia, Managing Director David Mortimer said.
- Ssangyong Group's chairman said Monday that he expected the German automaker Mercedes-Benz AG to increase its 5 percent stake in the South Korean company.
- Indonesia pledged Monday to deregulate its economy to encourage foreign investment in its eastern region.
- Japan's major corporate bankruptcies, each with at least 10 million yen in liabilities, rose 10.7 percent in February from a year earlier, to 1,140 cases, Teikoku Databank said Monday.
- Kobe Steel Ltd. said it expected to suffer a net loss of 102 billion yen for the year to March following the earthquake that hit the company's home city in January.

Reuters, AFP, Bloomberg

IF YOU WANTED to buy this cottage in County Clare you could immerse yourself in the Irish civil tax code, wade through the local zoning ordinances, study the fluctuations of the punt, engineer a timely currency swap, and make Mr. Richard O'Leary of 97 Dunleavy Street, Ballyvaughan, an offer he couldn't refuse.

OR YOU COULD JUST TALK TO YOUR PRIVATE BANKER.

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SPORTS

Draw Surprises Set Tone For NCAA Tournament

By Malcolm Moran
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The University of Arkansas's defense of its national college basketball championship will not be easy. Just to return to the Final Four, as the semifinals of the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament are called, the Razorbacks could face a Midwest Region champion game against the University of Kansas at Kemper Arena in Kansas City, a controversial, if technically neutral, site.

Kansas, Kentucky, Wake Forest and UCLA were named the top-seeded teams in the 64-team NCAA tournament on Sunday after a series of narrow conference championship games complicated the process until late in the afternoon.

While Kentucky earned its No. 1 seeding with an overtime victory over Arkansas in the Southeastern Conference title game, and Wake Forest earned its position by defeating North Carolina for the Atlantic Coast Conference title, the seeding and placement of the Kansas Jayhawks became the tournament's most intense issue.

The Jayhawks received the No. 1 Midwest seeding despite a loss to Iowa State in the semifinals of the Big Eight tournament on Saturday. After that defeat, Bob Frederick, chairman of the NCAA tournament committee and athletic director of Kansas, raised the issue with the eight other members, and left the hotel conference room for 45 minutes while the deliberations took place.

Connecticut and Massachusetts, which have shared a border and the ambition of gaining No. 1 positions, were both seeded second for the tournament. Connecticut, which was hurt by its loss to Villanova in the Big East championship game, will play in the West. Massachusetts, the Atlantic 10 champion and No. 2 seed, will play in the Midwest.

A tournament that has already been characterized by an expectation of shocking results began to take shape with a number of surprises. The Big Ten, ranked the seventh-best conference in the computerized ratings used by the tournament committee as a guide, received six bids, the most of any league. The Big Eight, the leading conference in rankings that include games through last Saturday, got five bids.

In one of the biggest surprises, Manhattan College was awarded an at-large bid despite a loss to St. Peter's in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference tournament and a schedule rated 216th out of 302 Division I teams.

But in a game of streaks, Wake Forest opened the second half with 11 unanswered points, the last on Childress's 3-pointer with just under 17 minutes to go. He was 23 of 44 from long range during Wake Forest's tournament victories over North Carolina and Duke.

Carolina, trailing by 6 points with less than 3 minutes to go, rallied by turning up the defensive pressure. Stackhouse's 3 with 4.5 seconds left gave five bids.

Frederick said the deciding factor favoring Manhattan was a record of nine victories in 12 games against teams rated between 51 and 150.

The resurgent Pacific 10 Conference placed five teams in the field, led by UCLA, a 10-time champion that is trying to win its first title in 20 years. There are five SEC teams and four each from the Big East and ACC.

A list of disappointed teams not included in the field includes George Washington, which twice beat Massachusetts this season, plus Iowa, Georgia Tech, Georgia and Texas Tech.

No. 3 Kentucky, No. 5 Arkansas: The Wildcats overcame a 6-point deficit in the final 35 seconds of overtime, with Anthony Epps's two free throws with 19.4 seconds left giving them the lead in the SEC and its NCAA bid.

No. 13 Villanova, No. 6 Connecticut: 78; Jerry Kittles and Jason Lawson each scored 27 points and the No. 13 Wildcats withstood a furiously rally in the last half before pulling away to win their first Big East title.

No. 19 Oklahoma St., 62, Iowa St., 53: Bryant Reeves scored 21 points as the Cowboys won the Big Eight tournament and its NCAA bid.

North Carolina, appearing in its fifth straight ACC title game, dropped to 24-5. The Tar Heels were seeded No. 2 in the NCAA's Southeast Regional.

Childress, the ACC tournament's most valuable player, was strictly No. 1. He scored 107 points in three games, breaking the record of 106 set in 1957 by Len Rosenbluth, a North Carolina forward. Appropriately, the record-breaking points won the title, as Childress sank a floating jumper from eight feet after beating a double team with four seconds left in overtime.

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Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatchers

GREENSBORO, North Carolina — Wake Forest's coach, Dave Odom, said it this weekend, and teammates have repeated it throughout the season about guard Randolph Childress. "It's his world," Odom said. "I just live in it."

Childress completed a remarkable weekend Sunday in which he made an entire league his world. The senior scored 37

points, 17 in the last 19 minutes for the top-seeded Demon Deacons, as they outlasted North Carolina, 82-80, in overtime to win the 42d annual Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament.

That raised Wake Forest's record to 24-5, gave the small private school from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, its first ACC title since 1962 and made it the top-seeded team in the Southeastern NCAA tournament.

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Wallace and Stackhouse helped North Carolina to a 38-33 halftime lead as the Tar Heels dominated the boards and held Wake Forest to 37.5 percent shooting.

But in a game of streaks,

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Herald Tribune INTERNATIONAL SPORTS

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 1995

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In the New Russia, Privalova Stands Out as Unique, Rich and Threatened

By Ian Thomsen
International Herald Tribune

BARCELONA — Irina Privalova was identified as a potential figure skater when she was 3 years old. At 8, she was judged a better candidate for speed skating and, by 10, she had taken to running. Growing up in Moscow, the sports society of the Soviet Union helped make her the world champion on sprinter skates today at 26.

If the machine that created her has broken down, she thrives — although, sometimes, she might wish the world had never changed.

"I am not so rich in Russia, now we have so many rich people in Russia," Privalova argued. "Still, it is very dangerous for me. If somebody writes about my money it can be dangerous for me from the bandits."

When she travels from Moscow, her coach said, the police branch that protects government officials helps guard her 6-year-

old son, Alexei, at her request. The quality of that protection and the real need for it are difficult to judge. She is uncertain whether she will risk training next month at Kislovodsk, a mountain resort near Grozny.

If one element of the former Soviet Union threatens her for staying, a larger part undoubtedly loves Privalova for not abandoning her country. Her life is more complicated than a conversation allows.

"Now in Russia it is very difficult to live for all people, not just me," she said. "I have quite a good condition. I have my own track and field, not the best, but not bad; a good swimming pool, a physical therapist.

"Maybe I can leave, but when people change their country, they change their condition. Sometimes it takes time for them to adapt. I have not so much time. With a little change I can lose maybe my result in the Olympic Games. I prefer to live in Russia for training and also for living at home sometimes."

She is governed by a marriage of new and old values. She wants and demands money, salary, as is her right. Yet the money hasn't infected her yearning to compete. Last winter she considered speed skating for Russia at the Olympics. Others of her stature prefer to avoid risk — many, for example, snubbed last weekend's IAAF World Indoor Championships, which did not offer prize money. Philosophically, there can be no arguing with such professionals, who deserve their share of the take, but such philosophy was incidental to Privalova. Not only did she decide to run, she decided to go for the world record in the 400 meters, an event she had never run indoors.

So she became the star of the weekend, bursting through the vacuum of other big names to win to 50.23 seconds, becoming in her debut the fourth-fastest woman to ever run the event. Among those training behind her were American Jeannine Miles, 400-meter world champion outdoors in

1993. Privalova's love for competition radiated from an otherwise jaded weekend. She was awesome.

"I don't know how 400-meter runners think that race over and over again," said Privalova; but she admitted to a sinus problem that may have cost her the world record of 49.59 seconds. "My coach said, you are champion already in 60 meters, you are champion already in 200 meters — but no woman has been champion in 200 and 400 meters."

Privalova holds world indoor records

over 50 meters (5.92 seconds) and 60 meters (6.92), but she seeks similar validation outdoors. She hopes this weekend will help her over 100 meters next August at the outdoor world championships in Gothenburg against Gail Devers, Merlene Ottey and Gwen Torrence. Only Ottey bothered to come to Barcelona for the 60 meters.

"It is a world championship and I like this kind of competition," Privalova said.

"We are sportsmen and I run for my country, the team of Russia. Competition is the best training. I think if somebody does not take part in competition, they are afraid to lose. If you are a very good sprinter, you must be good in all disciplines."

Married at 18 and divorced two years later with a son to raise, she lives in a small, privatized flat in the 1980 Olympic village. Her coach, Vladimir Paraschitschuk, with whom she has had a romantic relationship, said she is planning to build a house near Moscow this summer — out a home to rival Carl Lewis's, but nicer, certainly, than she could have imagined growing up in under the Soviet system.

She is outgoing and genial, making light of most of her complaints, and it is hard to decide whether she is better off than her predecessors. Once, she and her coach left their car for five minutes in order to give a doping sample, and returned to find that their training equipment had been stolen.

Last month they were forced to bribe a Russian police officer \$100 in order to avoid fabricated charges of drunk driving. But she can afford such problems better than most Russians, and so the system still favors premier athletes.

"It is not a problem for me," she said. "There is only one problem. Sometimes it is so much waiting at the airport — two or three hours, maybe more, nobody knows. It's a very small airport, and our customs is very strong. The officer will look at my passport, and look at me, and look at the passport, for maybe five minutes."

The bureaucracy hasn't improved, obviously. But she doesn't laugh off the new threat of random violence from which there is little protection.

"Where we live, it is very dangerous to take a taxi from Moscow," she said. "Nobody knows if our car is ... She stopped. 'It is very dangerous.'

Italy's New Baggio

Slowed, but More a Leader

By Ken Shulman
Special to the Herald Tribune

mailed \$2 million-a-year contract when it expires in June, and added: "But we're not going to bend over backwards to keep him."

The national team's coach, Arrigo Sacchi, twice passed over Baggio during fall qualification matches for the 1996 European championships, preferring Parma's Gianfranco Zola. Sacchi, who attended Wednesday's match, refused to comment on Baggio's performance, or his chances of returning to the national team.

On Sunday, with Sacchi in the stands in Turin, Baggio started his second match in five days, this time against Foggia. For the first 30 minutes, he looked tight and wooden. But, at 57 minutes, he again set up Ravanello, for the first goal.

"At the beginning I was a bit frustrated," Baggio said afterward, an ice pack on his badly sprained knee. "Everybody was running hard, and I was trying to catch my breath."

Twenty-five minutes into the second half, with another flash of brilliance, he foiled Foggia goalkeeper Cesare Mancini with a cutting, dipping free kick from a difficult angle. Two minutes later, with Lazio thinking ahead to the UEFA Cup match against Eintracht Frankfurt on Tuesday, Baggio was replaced by Dic Piero. Young legs replacing legs grown old before their time.

The 28-year-old from Caldognone was tormented by injuries, some of which kept him from playing at all. On Nov. 27, after a free kick that gave Juventus a 2-1 victory in Padua, he hobbled off the field. He would not return for more than three months.

Meantime, a 21-year-old midfielder named Alessandro Del Piero had pulled Baggio's No. 10 jersey over his shoulders and, with Ravanello and the reborn Gianni Vialli, given Juventus a commanding lead in the first division. Baggio, whose Florentine fans noted in 1990 when their darling was sold for a then-record \$14 million, no longer appeared indispensable to the club.

"Baggio is the type of player who makes any team shine," its general manager, Roberto Bettiga, said in December. He had been asked whether the team intended to renew Baggio's estimated to



Jacques Glassmann, the player who blew the whistle on the alleged bribes, was besieged outside the court as the Olympique Marseille trial began in Valenciennes, France.

SIDELINES

FIS Voids Downhill

It Had Voided Earlier

BORMIO, Italy (Reuters) —

Pietro Vitalini of Italy had his first World Cup victory taken away Monday when FIS said that Saturday's first downhill in Kvitsjord, Norway, had been declared void because bad weather had kept enough skiers from competing.

The race, a rerun of a downhill in Aspen, Colorado, that was declared void for the same reason, will not be re-scheduled because the World Cup finals begin here Wednesday.

In his place is a more intelligent, less intuitive player, for whom other players will have to run. And a player whose physical limitations may at last transform him into what his coaches, teammates and fans have always expected from him: a dependable, consistent team leader.

Dennis Wise, the Chelsea and England midfielder, was freed on bail pending an appeal after receiving a three-month jail sentence for assaulting a taxi driver. (AP)

In Skating, a Lot of Movement Off Ice

By Christopher Clarey
Special to the Herald Tribune

BIRMINGHAM, England — Otonio Cinquanta, the president of the International Skating Union, was standing with his back to a wall, brandishing a list of major changes and imploring the stars of the sport to read between the lines.

"The message is, 'Please, eligible skaters, don't go ineligible and please, ineligible skaters come back,'" said Cinquanta, an energetic Italian.

It was an appropriate image: Cinquanta backed into a corner. Because that is exactly the position the ISU had found itself in by not reacting with more alacrity to figure skating's recent boom to popularity.

In the wake of two Winter Olympics in two years and

Nancy Kerrigan's stranger-than-fiction brush with Tonya Harding's entourage, the sport has broadened appeal, and promoters and television networks in the United States and Europe have been rushing to meet the demand with supply.

The supply has included a number of special events and glorified exhibitions featuring professional skaters such as Kristi Yamaguchi, Scott Hamilton, Viktor Petrenko, Oksana Baiul and Kerrigan. Though no Olympic medals have been at stake, the television ratings have been consistently high, even for a recent event on the Fox network in the United States that used celebrities, like the actor Ben Vereen, as judges.

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"The message is, 'Please, eligible skaters, don't go ineligible and please, ineligible skaters come back,'" said Cinquanta, an energetic Italian.

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for ISU skating competitions next season, including the 1996 world championships in Edmonton, Canada. There also will be eight open competitions sanctioned by the ISU instead of this season's two. If all goes to plan, there should even be a comprehensible circuit for Olympic-eligible skaters in the near future: a Grand Prix with five events, prize money, points and a lucrative final featuring the top performers.

"This takes us 90 percent of the way we need to go," said Clare Ferguson, president of the U.S. Figure Skating Association and a member of the ISU council that agreed to the changes in Birmingham.

Just how much difference will it all make? And just how many skaters will remain in or return to the Olympic-eligible fold by the April 1 deadline?

Ferguson believes "there is no reason for everyone to not stay eligible now." But the former men's Olympic champion, Dick Button, one of the principal promoters of professional competitions (seven this season alone), is not convinced.

For one thing, the money may not be comparable, at least at the start. Yamaguchi and Hamilton each got \$200,000 in November for winning the Gold Championship, a competition that would permit only double jumps and emphasize spins, footwork and choreography.

That might represent a bit too much change, even for Cinquanta. But skating is clearly on the move.

champions promoted by Button and the ubiquitous International Management Group, which, paradoxically, also negotiates television deals for the ISU. Preliminary indications are that winners of each Grand Prix event will get about \$50,000.

The other issue is artistry.

"You can't expect a mature artist to spend all his energy doing triple jumps any more than you can expect a dancer to spend his entire time doing quadruple turns in the air," Button said.

Like Isabelle and Paul Duchesnay before them, the Finnish ice dancers Susanna Rahkamo and Petri Kokko are eager to turn professional so they can express themselves more freely instead of abiding by the restrictive rules of Olympic-level competition.

Didier Gailhaguet, the French national team director, is eager to initiate a "jump-off" in which skaters would take turns trying an increasingly difficult series of jumps, and a miss would mean elimination.

The celebrated coach Carlo Fassi envisions a competition that would permit only double jumps and emphasize spins, footwork and choreography.

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CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Practical jokes
2 School founded by Henry VI
3 Sharp-smelling

4 For men — (stag)

5 Haunted house

6 They're easily bruised

7 — of the party

8 Evening slightly, as a ship

9 Passenger restraints

10 Sudden shock

11 Change, as a hem

12 Paramount workplace

13 Path of discovery

14 Island near Australia

15 White weasel

16 Followed, tempestuously

17 Rainbows

18 Last mile in a car warranty, often

19 University founder Cornell

20 Shops

21 Be that as it may

22 Peinstaking

23 TV host

24 Gibbons

25 Cleopatra's barge

26 Artoos

27 Gottfried, in "Lohengrin"

28 Tour outline

29 Tour of duty

30 Nil, in Sicily

31 Choicer

32 Eyesores

33 Spanish cloud?

34 Heymerket

35 Square invent.

36 Football's Pape

37 Bear

38 Grand

39 Night for Singing

40 Comic Carvey

41 Dapardieu

DOWN

1 Attacks

2 Actresses

3 Is a bed winner

4 Word with solar or nervous —

5 Stanley Gardner

6 Firefly component?

7 Leading early in the race

8 Military experiment, perhaps

9 Day of Beethoven's Seventh

10 Play-by-play announcer's partner

11 Front-row racing fan

12 1992 thriller "Basic

13 Aug. clock setting

14 Diamond Jim

15 Entertainment co-host

16 fast, buster?

17 Car bomb?

